You're My Pet
12
Yayoi Ogawa

You're my Pet

BY YAYOI OGAWA

VOL. 12

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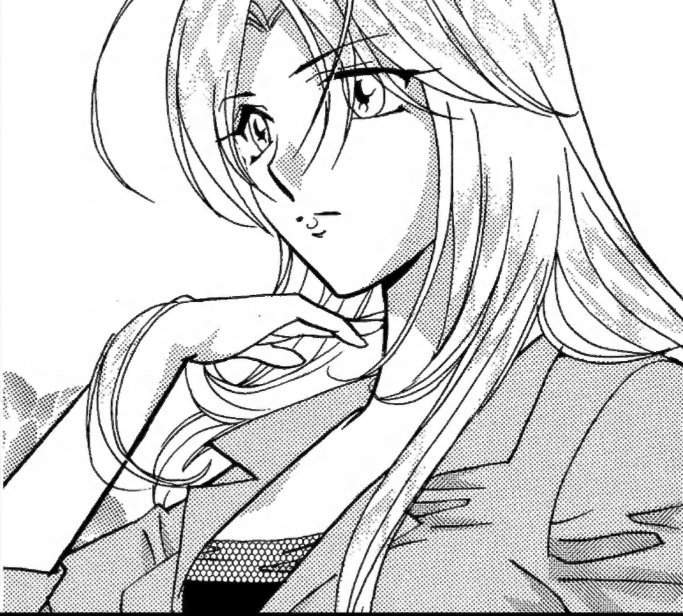

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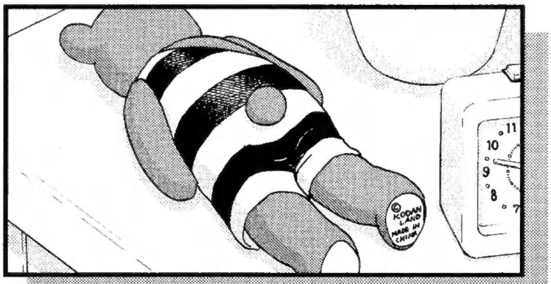
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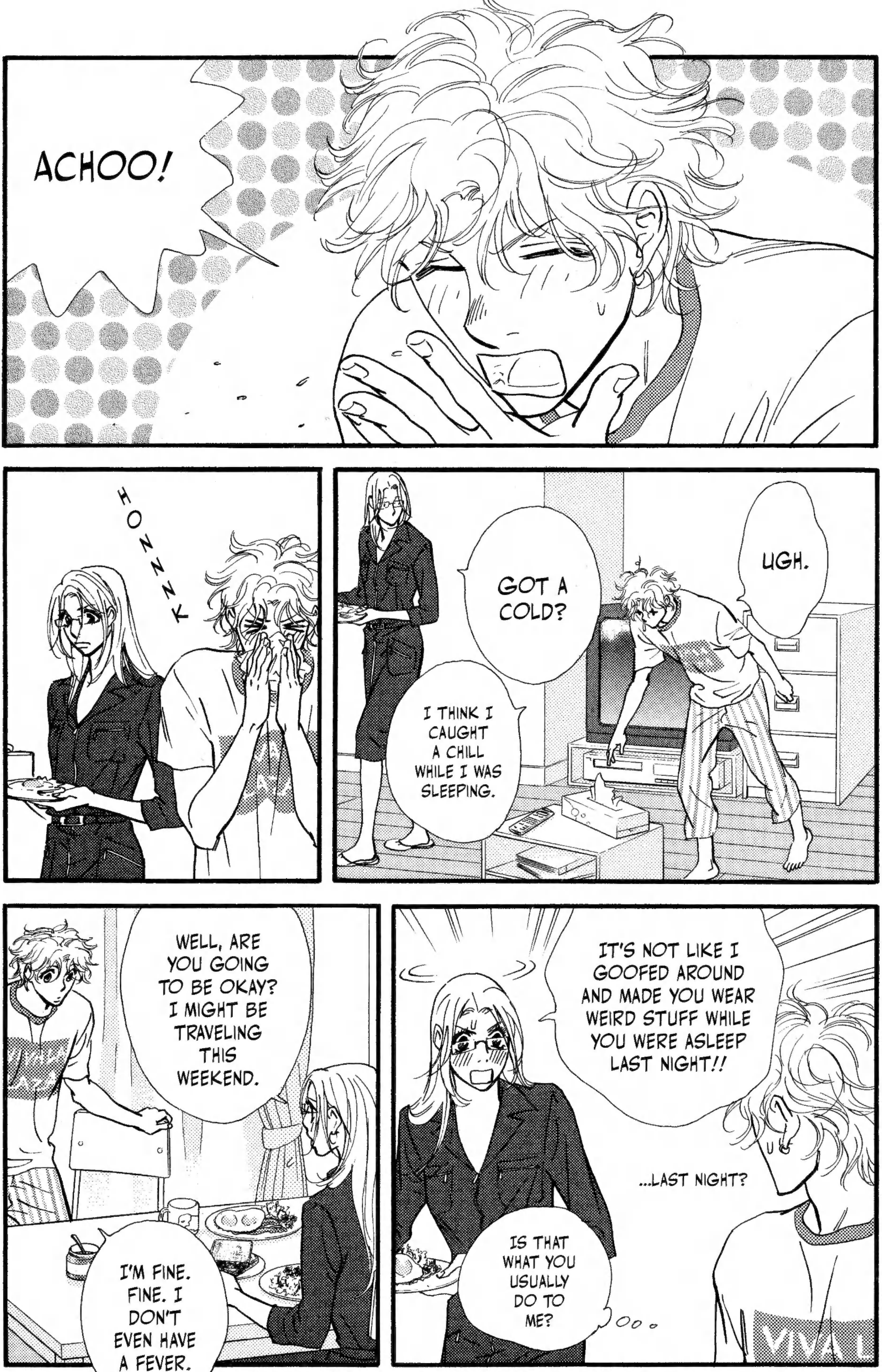
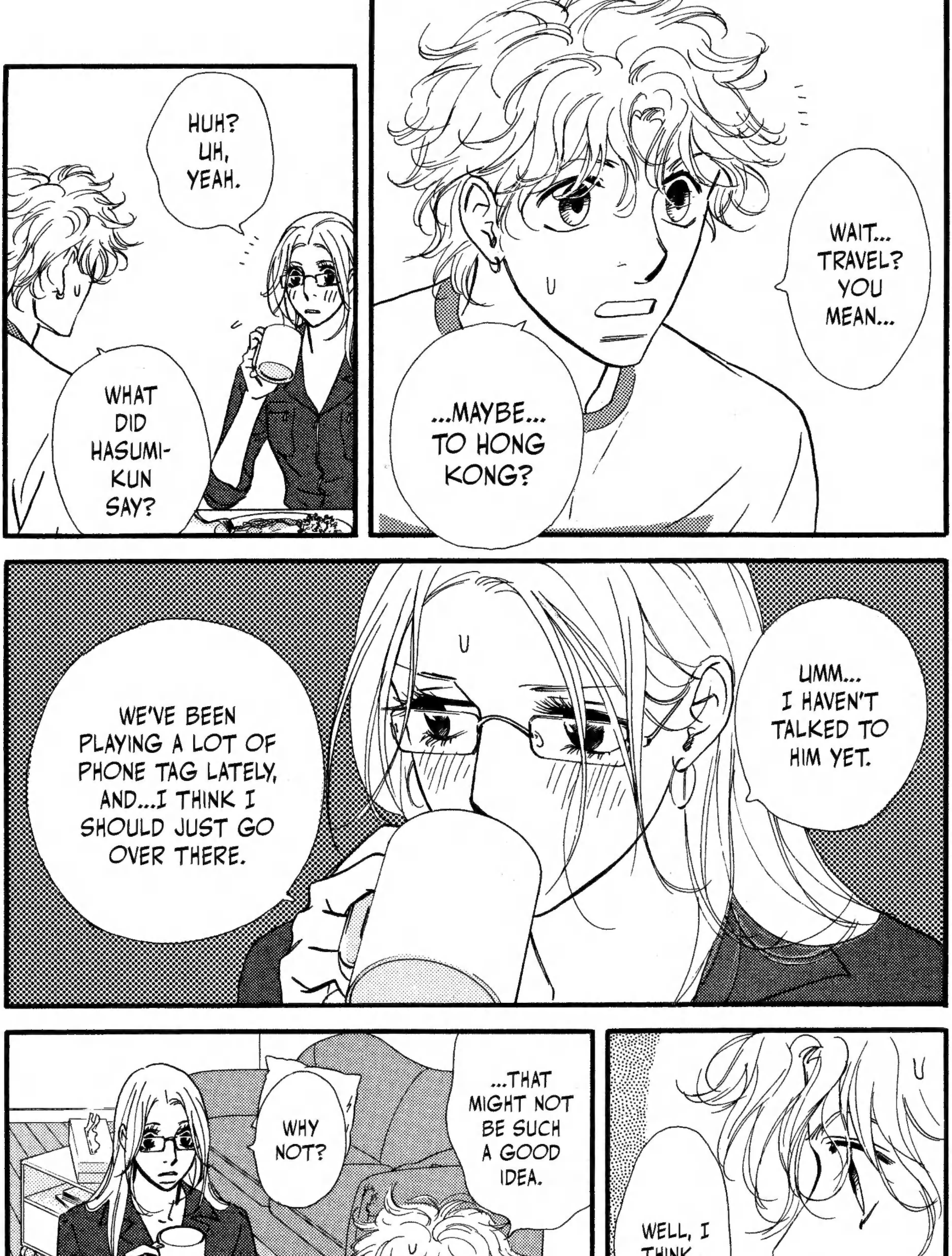

ACHOO!
HONNNK
GOT A COLD?
UGH.
I THINK I CAUGHT A CHILL WHILE I WAS SLEEPING.
WELL, ARE YOU GOING TO BE OKAY? I MIGHT BE TRAVELING THIS WEEKEND.
I'M FINE. FINE. I DON'T EVEN HAVE A FEVER.
IT'S NOT LIKE I GOOFED AROUND AND MADE YOU WEAR WEIRD STUFF WHILE YOU WERE ASLEEP LAST NIGHT!!
...LAST NIGHT?
IS THAT WHAT YOU USUALLY DO TO ME?

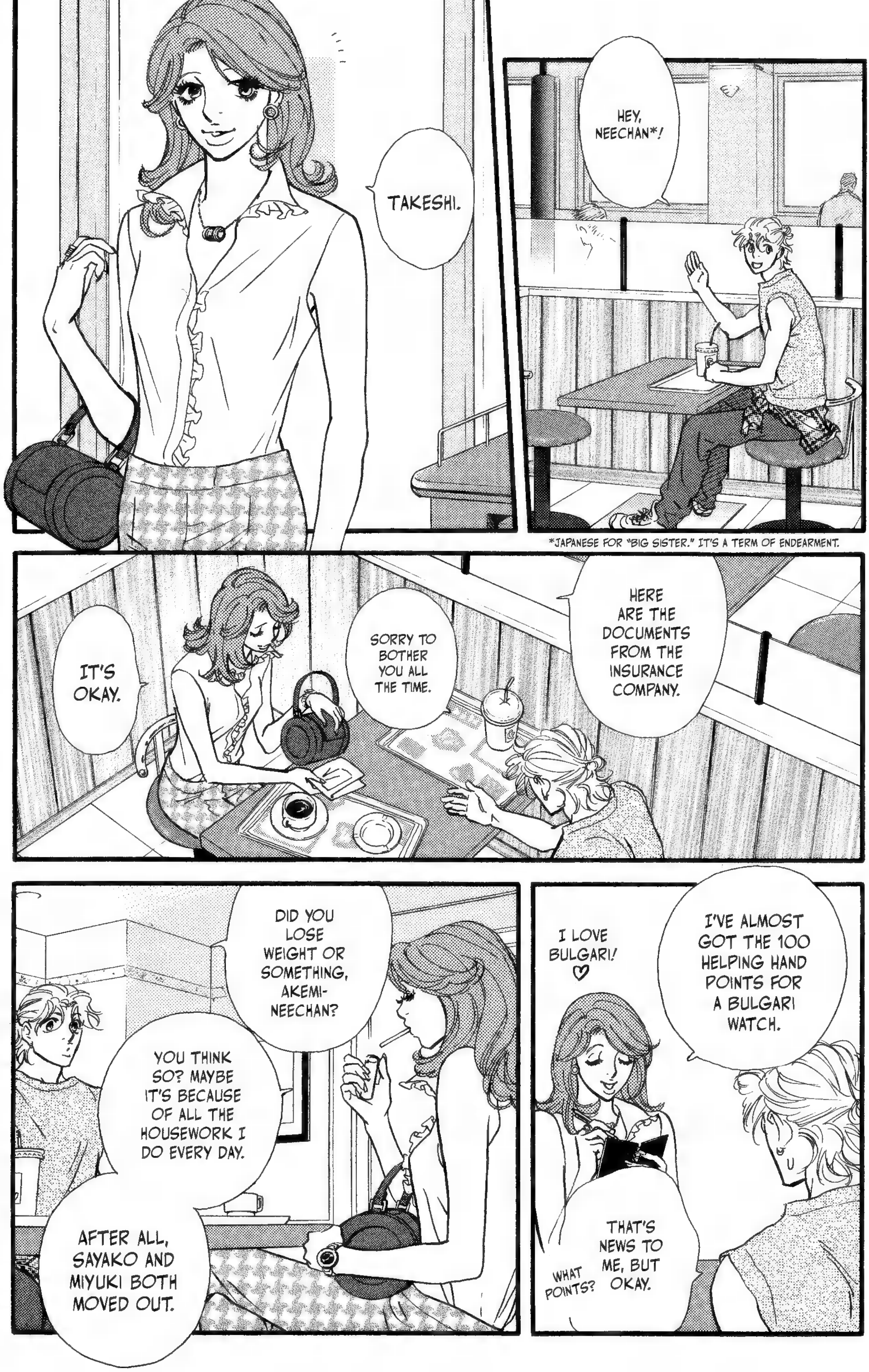

WAIT... TRAVEL? YOU MEAN...
...MAYBE... TO HONG KONG?
HUH? UH, YEAH.
WHAT DID HASUMI-KUN SAY?
UMM... I HAVEN'T TALKED TO HIM YET.
WE'VE BEEN PLAYING A LOT OF PHONE TAG LATELY, AND...I THINK I SHOULD JUST GO OVER THERE.
WELL, I THINK...
...THAT MIGHT NOT BE SUCH A GOOD IDEA.
WHY NOT?
WELL, YOU KNOW...LOTS OF THINGS... LIKE THE CAT... AND STUFF...

LIKE, BE A LITTLE SUSPICIOUS, OKAY?!
STUFF LIKE WHAT?
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE FEMALE?
AT LEAST CALL HIM FROM THE AIRPORT! I MEAN, HE HAS TO DO ALL THAT GETTING READY STUFF!
LIKE CLEAN... AND MAKE BORSCHT!
...YOU'RE RIGHT, OF COURSE. BUT...
..BORSCHT?
UGH...I DON'T THINK THAT STUBBORN FUKUSHIMA-SAN'S MOVED OUT...
I WONDER IF IT'S GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT.
YO! MERRILY MASTURBATING?!
ACHOO!
EW! DISGUSTING!
GOT A COLD?!

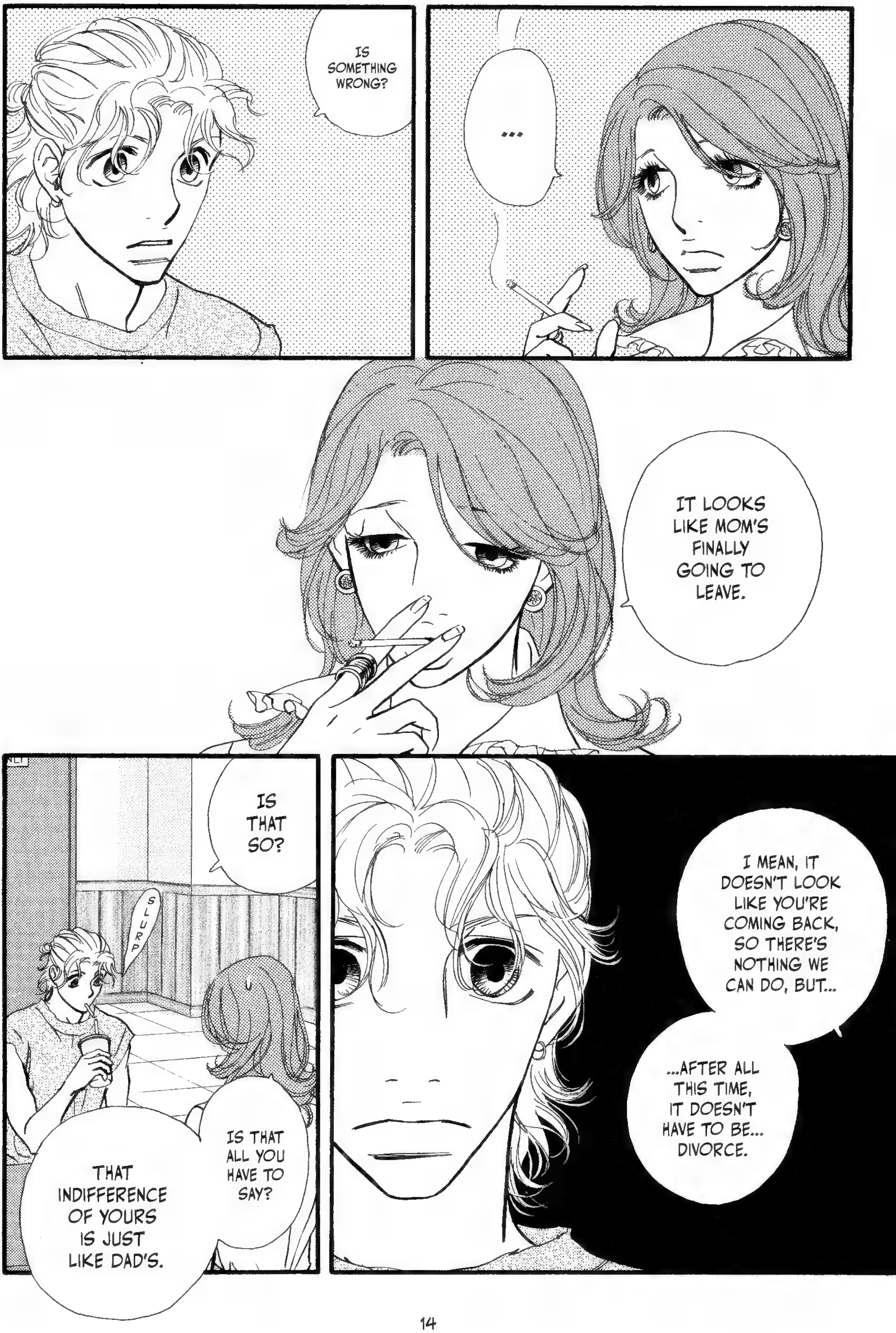
WHY DON'T YOU GO HOME?
YOUR COLD LOOKS REALLY NASTY.
UMM, I DON'T KNOW. I USUALLY DON'T GET COLDS.
CROSSES FINGERS.
HONNK
YOU! I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU WITH A BIG, WET KISS!
WHOA! STOP! BUT THAT MAKES ME HAPPY, MAYBE!!
WHAT'S GOING ON IN HERE?
TAKESHI, DID YOU GET YOUR VISA?
UH, NO, I'M STILL WAITING FOR IT.
WHAT? YOU THINK IT'S GOING TO COME AT ALL?
IF IT COMES DOWN TO IT, I'LL GO TO THE EMBASSY IN PERSON, TALK TO THEM AND--
TOUGH!
NO, NO, NO.
I'VE CONTACTED THEM AND MADE SURE EVERYTHING'LL BE OKAY EVEN IF IT'S LATE.
FORMER JUVENILE DELINQUENT
YOU'D BE ALL "FISTS OF FURY," RIGHT?
WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO TAKE THAT ENTRANCE EXAM?
PROBABLY IN DECEMBER WITH THE STUDENTS OVER THERE.
HMM.

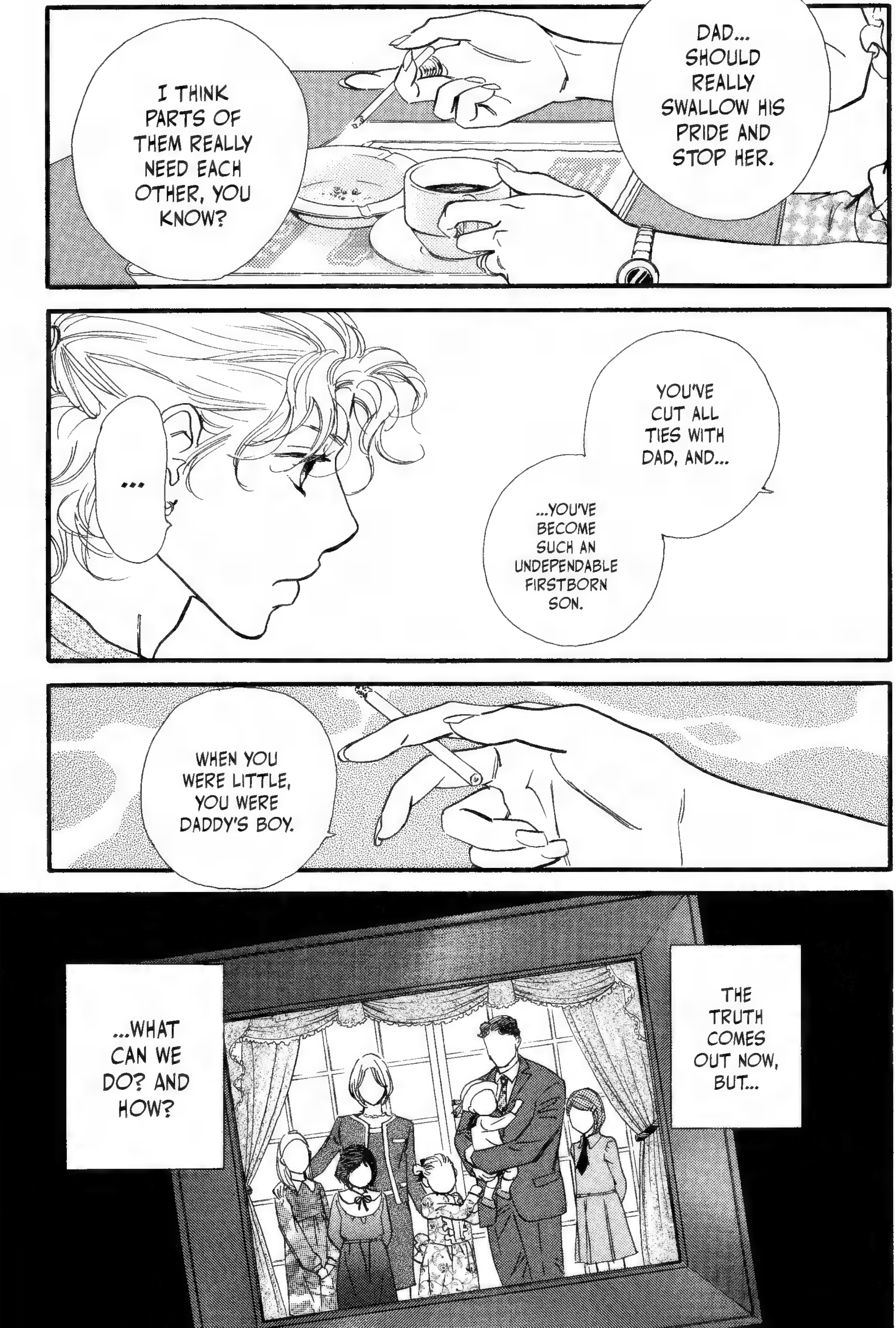
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THIS MUSIC?
THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT YOU TO LISTEN TO. COME OVER HERE.
OKAAY...
PRETTY COOL. IS IT FOR A NEW PIECE?
NAW, IT'S A SHORT PIECE; ONLY THREE MINUTES. I ASKED YAMA-SAN TO MAKE IT FOR ME.
I CHOREO-GRAPHED A LITTLE NUMBER FOR YOU TO THIS.
WANT TO DANCE IT BEFORE YOU GO OVERSEAS?
FOR ME?
WELL, I KNOW IT WAS FOOLISH OF ME TO DO IT WITHOUT ASKING, BUT... WELL, YOU KNOW. MAYBE YOU COULD CALL IT A GOING-AWAY PRESENT.
SEE, YOU COULD USE IT FOR YOUR ENTRANCE EXAMS OR SOMETHING...
BLUSH
I MEAN, YOU PROBABLY WON'T EVER DANCE TO MY CHOREOGRAPHY AGAIN, SO...

UMINO-SAN...
OH! YOU DON'T WANT TO AFTER ALL. WELL, YOU ARE BUSY!
TIMID
IT'S THE ULTIMATE GOING AWAY PRESENT.
I REALLY APPRECIATE IT.
TEARY
TAKESHI...
SORRY--MY SOBS GOT RECORDED. CAN WE DO THAT PART AGAIN?
WHY ARE YOU RECORDING THIS?!
コッテリアコーヒー



*JAPANESE FOR "BIG SISTER." IT'S A TERM OF ENDEARMENT.


IS SOMETHING WRONG?
...
IT LOOKS LIKE MOM'S FINALLY GOING TO LEAVE.
IS THAT SO?
SLURP
IS THAT ALL YOU HAVE TO SAY?
THAT INDIFFERENCE OF YOURS IS JUST LIKE DAD'S.
I MEAN, IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE YOU'RE COMING BACK, SO THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO, BUT...
...AFTER ALL THIS TIME, IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE... DIVORCE.


DAD... SHOULD REALLY SWALLOW HIS PRIDE AND STOP HER.
I THINK PARTS OF THEM REALLY NEED EACH OTHER, YOU KNOW?
YOU'VE CUT ALL TIES WITH DAD, AND...
...YOU'VE BECOME SUCH AN UNDEPENDABLE FIRSTBORN SON.
...
WHEN YOU WERE LITTLE, YOU WERE DADDY'S BOY.
THE TRUTH COMES OUT NOW, BUT...
...WHAT CAN WE DO? AND HOW?

SEVEN, EIGHT.
ONE.
TWO.
THREE.
FOUR.
FIVE, SIX.
PHEW.
HEY!
FOR A MOMENT, YOU GO INTO A PLIÉ.
THEN TAP, TAP AND...
OKAY.
YOUR TOES...
YOU'RE ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE WHOSE SECOND TOES ARE LONGER THAN THEIR BIG TOES, AREN'T YOU?
WHAT IS IT?

THE BIG TOE IS CALLED "OYAYUBI" IN JAPANESE. "OYA" MEANS "PARENT," THUS THE "GO FURTHER THAN YOUR PARENT" PUN AND SUPERSTITION.

YOU TRIED YOUR HARDEST TO BETTER YOURSELF, BUT DIDN'T NOTICE ANYONE ELSE.
THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE TALENT, BUT THINK EVERYTHING'S FINE AS LONG AS THEY DO THEIR WORK PERFECTLY.
YOU'VE GROWN A LOT AS A PERSON. IT'S TRUE.
AT FIRST, YOU WERE A BIT, LIKE A CLICHED PRODIGY.
YOU'RE MUCH MORE CONSIDERATE OF YOUR PARTNERS AND THE STAFF.
NOW YOU UNDERSTAND HOW MUCH BETTER IT IS WHEN EVERYONE'S IN SYNC. THE WHOLE STAGE SHINES.
WELL, IT'S NOT JUST ON STAGE, YOU KNOW.
I DON'T THINK I CAN DO ANYTHING BY MYSELF ANYMORE.
REALLY?

YEAH.
IT'S LIKE I'VE BECOME SOMEONE WHO CAN'T EXIST IN SOLITUDE.
I THINK IT'S PRETTY AMAZING YOU'VE REALIZED THAT AT YOUR AGE.
DO YOU THINK IT'S TRUE?
WELL, IT LOOKS LIKE THAT'S NOT ENOUGH.
...YOU'VE BECOME SUCH AN UNDEPENDABLE FIRSTBORN SON.
WHAT IN THE WORLD?
HOW FAR DO YOU THINK YOU CAN GO?
THAT'S WHAT MY FATHER SAID.
NOW IT'S A QUESTION I POSE TO MYSELF: HOW FAR DO I THINK I CAN GO?
THERE'S NO WAY OF KNOWING.

BUT...
I'LL BE HOME TOMORROW NIGHT.
YEP.
BRING ME BACK SOME "NUDES OF THE WORLD" CARDS, OKAY?
YEAH, YEAH.
GRAB
PET ME.
I SAID I'M IN A HURRY.
NO, IF YOU PET ME HERE, THEN SOMETHING GOOD'LL HAPPEN. PEOPLE HAVE EVEN WON THE LOTTERY.
OKAY. GOOD BOY. GOOD BOY.
PET
PET
PET

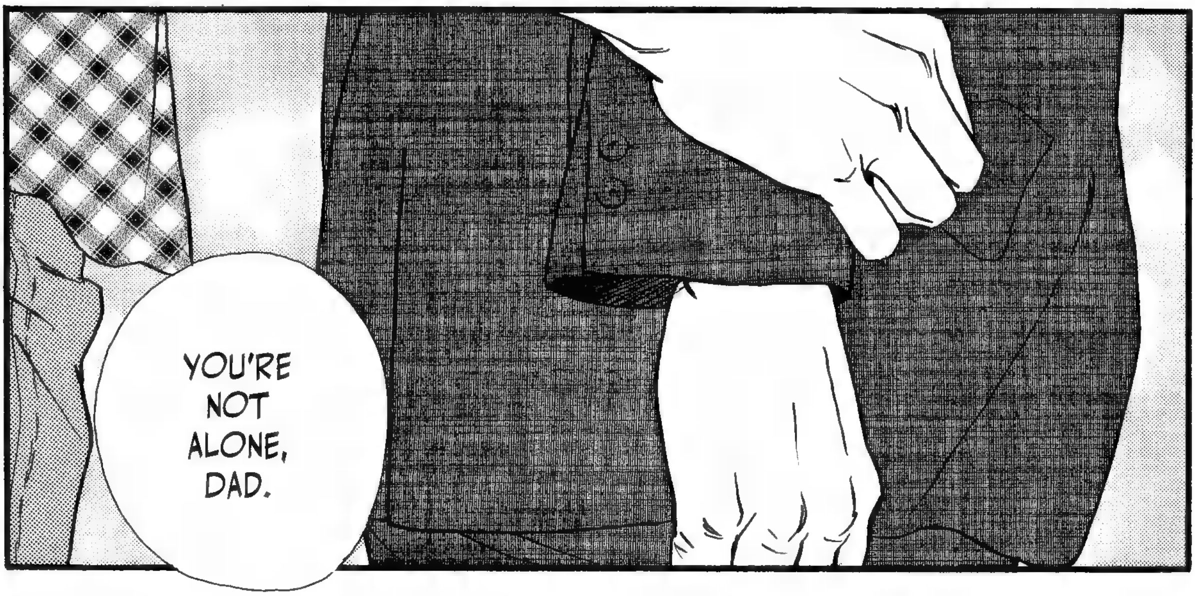
THANK YOU, SUMIRE-CHAN.
SEE YA.
THAT HAND FELT GOOD, BUT...
...I HAVE TO BECOME BIGGER THAN THAT.
HAVE A GOOD TIME.

BRINGS BACK MEMORIES, EH?
I USED TO COME HERE FOR WALKS A LOT.
WITH YOU, DAD.
I HEAR YOU'RE GOING OVERSEAS.
ARE YOU GOING TO SETTLE DOWN AND WORK OVER THERE?

DID YOU KNOW? MY SECOND TOE'S LONGER THAN MY BIG TOE.
THEY SAY THAT MEANS I'LL BE MORE SUCCESSFUL THAN MY PARENTS.
I PLAN TO.
DON'T BE INSOLENT.
HMMPH.
SHE JUST WANTS TO TALK.
MOM...
...JUST WANTS YOU TO SAY SOMETHING NICE NOW AND THEN.
SO YOU UNDERSTAND HOW SHE FEELS?
IS THAT BECAUSE YOU'RE HER SON?

MAYBE IT IS.
BUT I'M YOUR SON, TOO, DAD.
SO I UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FEEL.
I'M COMING HOME NOW.

I CAN'T GROW TALLER THAN YOU...
...BUT I'LL GROW AS A PERSON.


YOU'RE NOT ALONE, DAD.

THAT'S RIGHT. I HAVE TO BECOME STRONGER.
TAKESHI...
SO I CAN BE THERE FOR HER IF DISASTER STRIKES.
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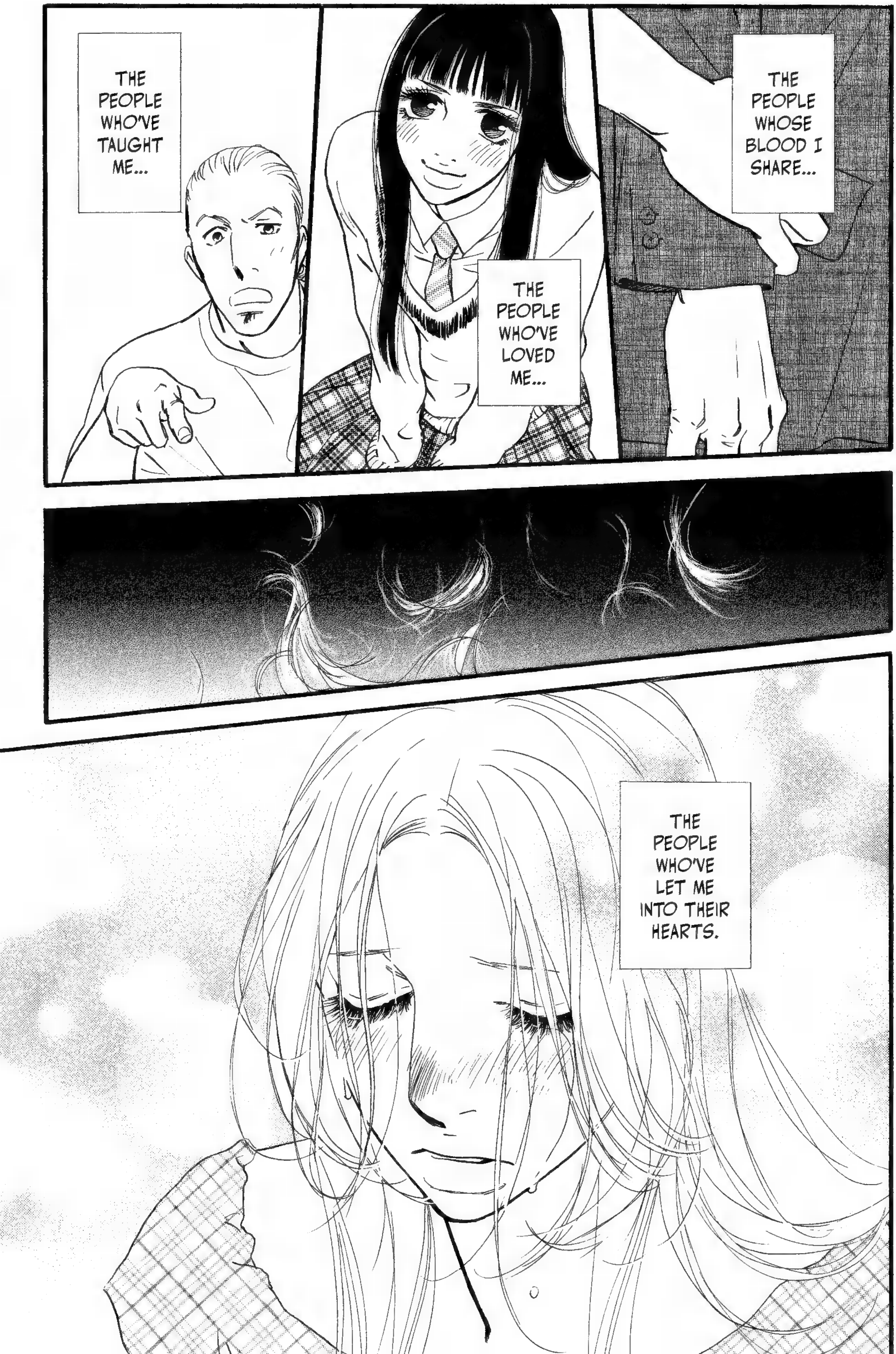
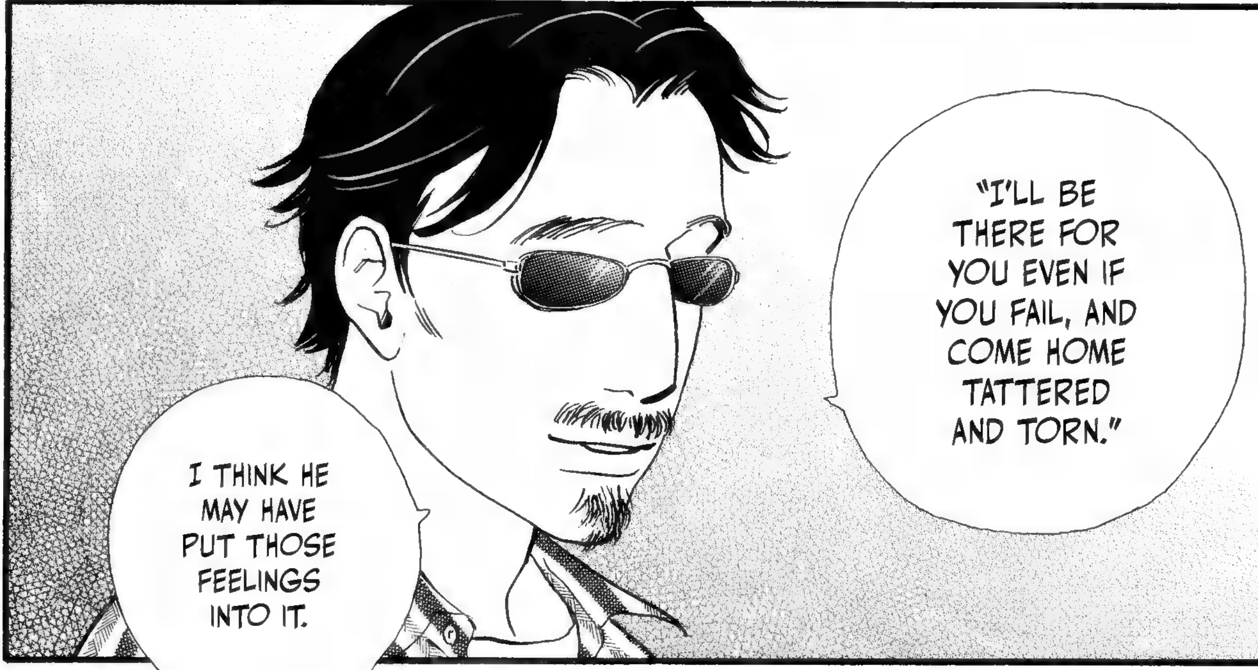
SO THAT I CAN SUPPORT THOSE WHO HAVE SUPPORTED ME.


THE PEOPLE WHOSE BLOOD I SHARE...
THE PEOPLE WHO'VE LOVED ME...
THE PEOPLE WHO'VE TAUGHT ME...
THE PEOPLE WHO'VE LET ME INTO THEIR HEARTS.

EVERYONE WHO HELPED MAKE ME WHO I AM TODAY.
BYE-BYE, MOMO...

HUH?!
OH NO! YOU CUT YOUR HAIR!
ARE YOU THAT UPSET?
NO, NO! IT LOOKS GOOD.
YOU LOOK LIKE A BOY NOW.
BUT NOW HE LOOKS JUST LIKE ME.
DON'T WORRY. YOU TWO DON'T LOOK ANYTHING ALIKE!
THE GIRLS WON'T BE ABLE TO TELL US APART.
SERIOUSLY, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!
ACHOO!
AWW. DID YOU CATCH A COLD BECAUSE YOUR HEAD GETS CHILLY NOW?
DON'T LOOK ANYTHING ALIKE!?
OR, SHOULD I SAY, THE BACK OF YOUR HEAD IS WEIRDLY SHAPED.
YOU CUT IT YOURSELF, DIDN'T YOU?
OH NO, IT'S THE PRODIGAL COLD!
OR, SHOULD I SAY, IT'S COLD TODAY.
WAIT--IS THAT TAKESHI-KUN?

*GEORGE BALANCHINE, ONE OF THE FOUNDERS OF AMERICAN BALLET. HE REALLY DID CHOREOGRAPH A BALLET CALLED "THE PRODIGAL SON."



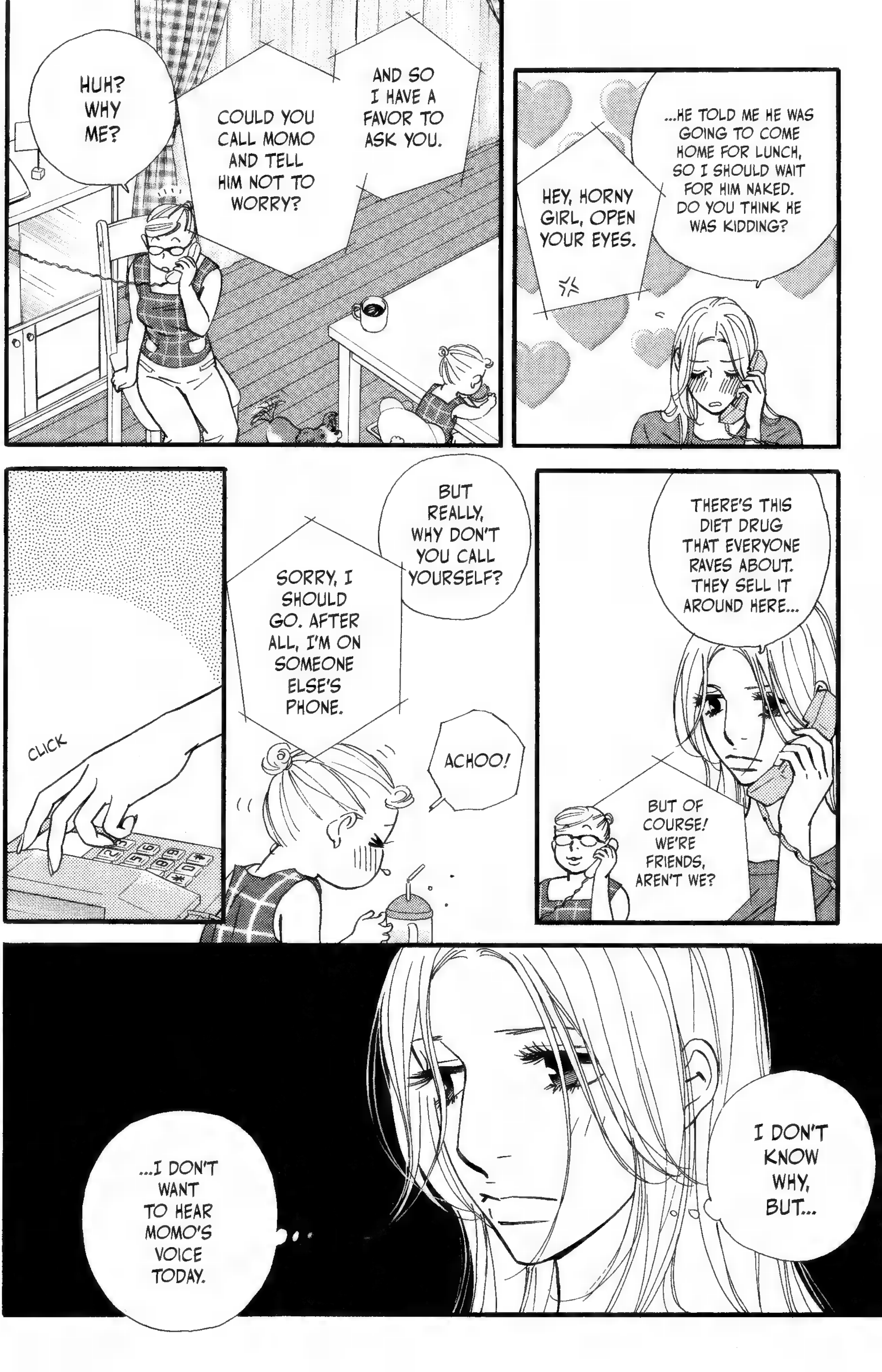
I GUESS FROM YOUR POINT OF VIEW, IT'S A BIT RUDE, EH?
THAT SECRET SENTIMENT GOT TO ME (SO MUCH THAT I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO CRY).
DON'T TELL UMINO-SAN, OKAY?
BY THE WAY, MY PRODIGAL COLD KNOCKED ME OUT.
I WISH SUMIRE-CHAN WOULD COME HOME...

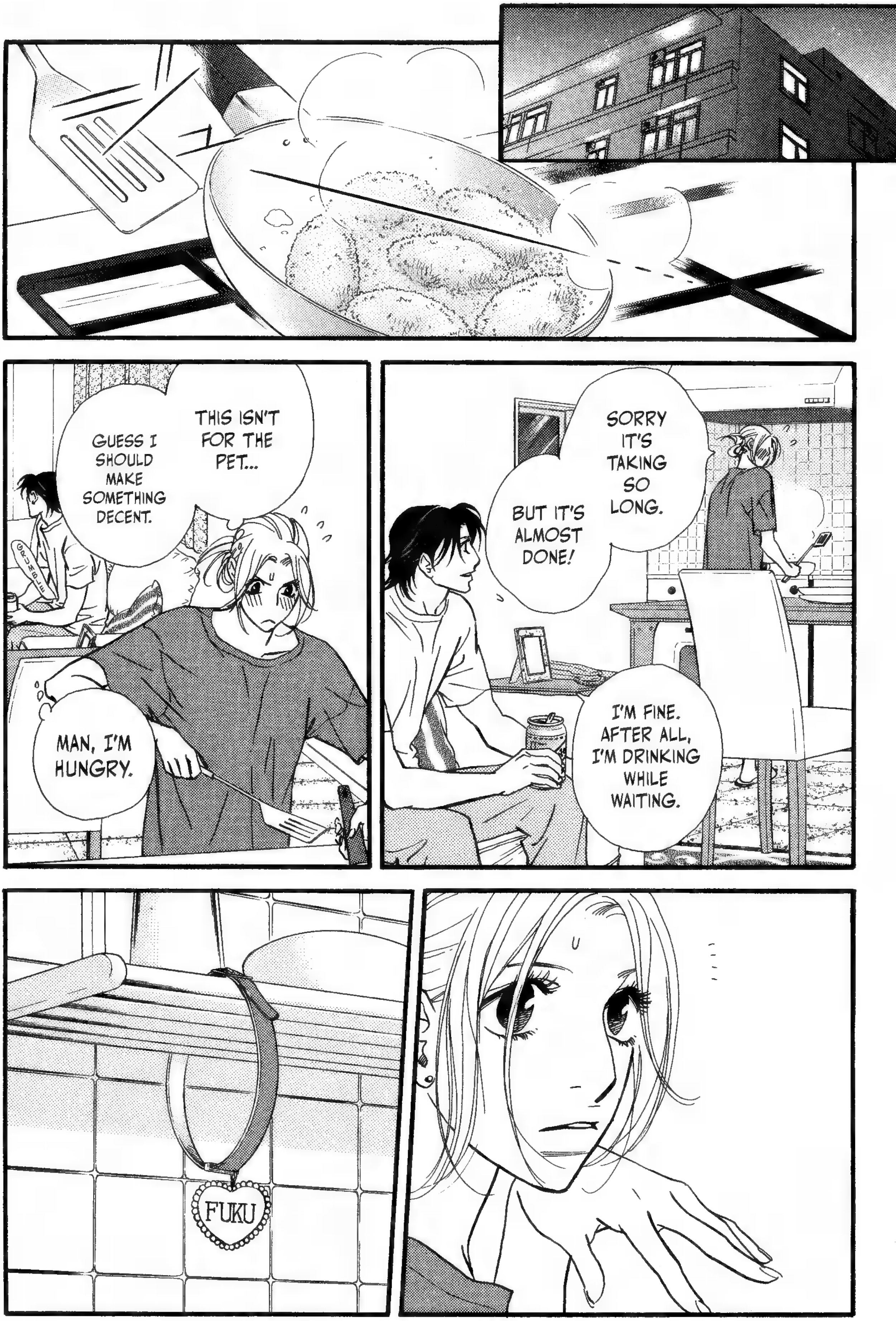
WHAT DAY IS IT TODAY?
I'M DREAMING...
...AND DESPERATELY LOOKING FOR HER SO THAT I CAN TELL HER SOMETHING.

RULE 66: YOUR SLAVE
LOVE SLAVE

YOU REALLY CAN'T... STAY HERE JUST...
...A LITTLE LONGER?
WHAT?
I THINK IT'S WEIRD MYSELF, BUT...
...RIGHT NOW...I'M AFRAID TO BE APART FROM YOU.
REALLY AFRAID.
Let's go!
MINOMANTA'S IDEA! LIVE ON THE PHONE!
HUH. SO...

IS THAT OKAY WITH YOUR WORK?
YEAH...JUST NOT SHOWING UP WOULD BE BAD, SO I CALLED IN SICK, BUT...
...I JUST TOOK OFF LAST TIME, SO MAYBE IT'S NOT OKAY.
"MAYBE IT'S NOT OKAY"?
...YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO COME HOME LAST NIGHT, BUT YOU'RE STILL IN HONG KONG?
YEAH.
BUT WASN'T THAT JUST BEDROOM TALK?
YOU KNOW...TO SET THE MOOD WHILE YOU'RE DOING IT?
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT AT FIRST.
IT'S OKAY... AFTER ALL, I'M...GOING TO QUIT SOON ANYWAY.
RIGHT NOW, IT'S MORE IMPORTANT TO ME THAT SENPAI NEEDS ME LIKE THAT.
DID YOU HEAR WHAT YOU JUST SAID?
WHEN A MAN SAYS "YOU'RE NUMBER ONE," IT MEANS THERE'S A NUMBER TWO.
HEY, ARE YOU LISTENING?
I'M LISTENING. I'M LISTENING!
SENPAI'S AT WORK RIGHT NOW, BUT...


AND SO I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK YOU.
COULD YOU CALL MOMO AND TELL HIM NOT TO WORRY?
HUH? WHY ME?
...HE TOLD ME HE WAS GOING TO COME HOME FOR LUNCH, SO I SHOULD WAIT FOR HIM NAKED. DO YOU THINK HE WAS KIDDING?
HEY, HORNY GIRL, OPEN YOUR EYES.
THERE'S THIS DIET DRUG THAT EVERYONE RAVES ABOUT. THEY SELL IT AROUND HERE...
BUT OF COURSE! WE'RE FRIENDS, AREN'T WE?
BUT REALLY, WHY DON'T YOU CALL YOURSELF?
SORRY, I SHOULD GO. AFTER ALL, I'M ON SOMEONE ELSE'S PHONE.
ACHOO!
CLICK
I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT...
...I DON'T WANT TO HEAR MOMO'S VOICE TODAY.


SORRY IT'S TAKING SO LONG.
BUT IT'S ALMOST DONE!
I'M FINE. AFTER ALL, I'M DRINKING WHILE WAITING.
THIS ISN'T FOR THE PET...
GUESS I SHOULD MAKE SOMETHING DECENT.
GRUMBLE
MAN, I'M HUNGRY.
FUKU

AFTER ALL, YOU STILL HAVE HER COLLAR.
HUH?!
W-W-WHY...
UH, NO, THAT'S...
...BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANT TO THROW IT AWAY, BECAUSE YOU MADE IT, IWAYA-SAN.
I HOPE FUKU-CHAN COMES BACK.
OH! AND NOT TO CHANGE THE SUBJECT, BUT SENPAI--
AAAAAH!
HEH HEH
OH... DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT.
TH-THUMP TH-THUMP
UH... YEAH...
THIS BLADE IS VERY DULL.
IT LOOKS LIKE YOUR KNIFE IS THE ONLY THING IN THE KITCHEN YOU USE REGULARLY.
UH, YEAH.
I...I GUESS I LIKE TO CUT THINGS.
LIKE... SALAMI...
EVERY DAY...AND... STUFF.

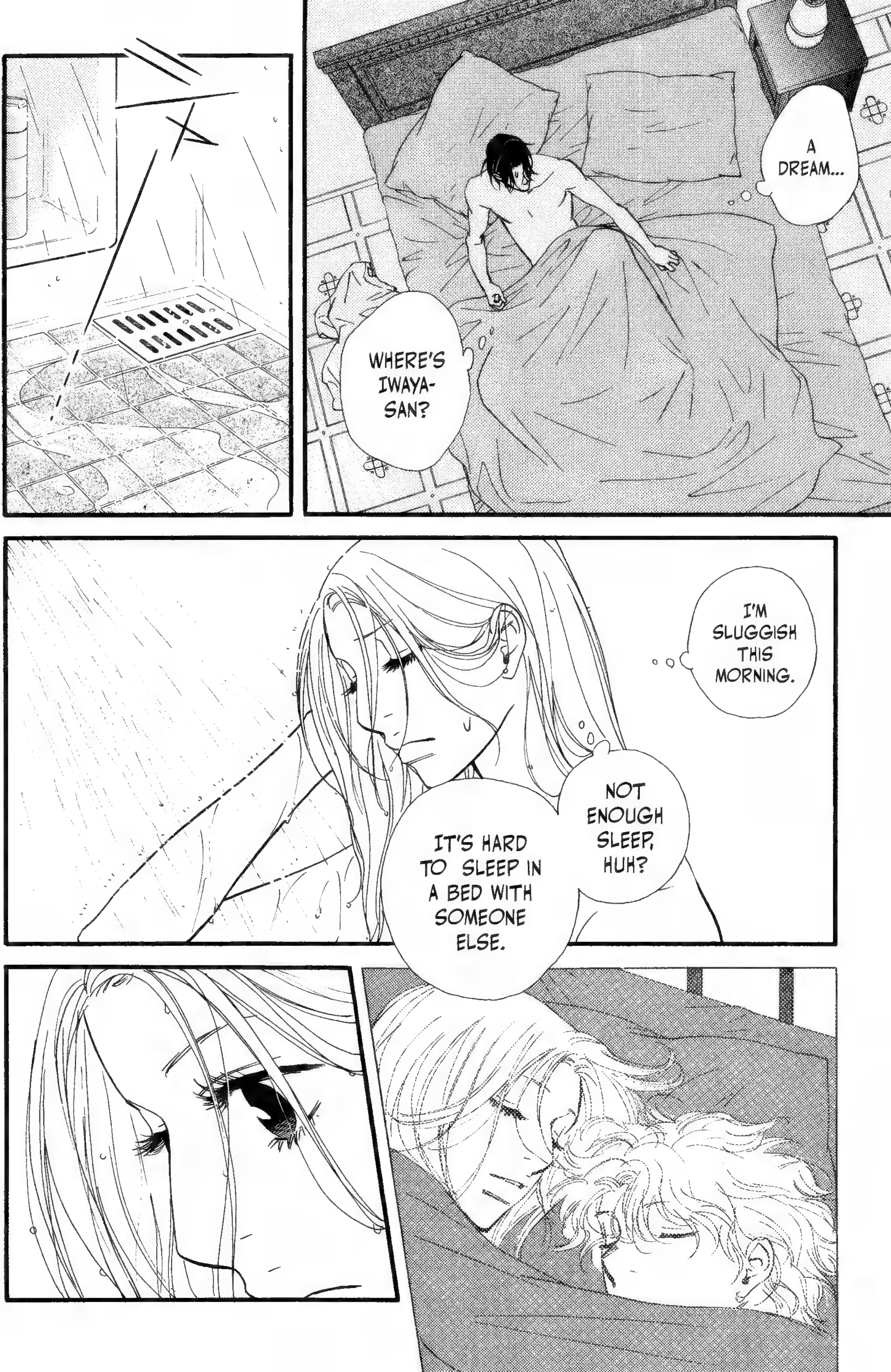
PLEASE EAT.
WOW!
IT SURE LOOKS GOOD.
THUMP THUMP THUMP
EVERY DAY? IS THAT NOT TOO MUCH SALT?
Y-YOU'RE RIGHT. EVERY DAY, RIGHT.
I THOUGHT SHE WAS GOING TO STAB ME!
THANK YOU FOR THE FOOD.
I FINALLY GET TO EAT.
WHOOPS.
I HAVE TO SQUEEZE SOME LEMON ON THE FRIED STUFF.
YUM.
I WONDER WHAT SENPAI PREFERS.
NOW THAT I THINK OF IT...
...SOME PEOPLE DON'T LIKE IT IF YOU JUST SQUEEZE LEMON ON THEIR FOOD.

BUT...MAYBE HE'LL THINK I'M NOT CONSIDERATE IF I DON'T SQUEEZE SOME LEMON ONTO HIS FOOD.
SO MAYBE I SHOULD ASK, "IT IS ALL RIGHT FOR ME TO SQUEEZE SOME LEMON ON THAT FOR YOU?" AFTER ALL.
BUT THAT WOULD BE WIMPING OUT.
UGH, OR MAYBE THIS IS NOT THE TIME TO BE THINKING IN CIRCLES ABOUT SOMETHING SO TRITE.
IT'S REALLY TRITE.
OKAY, I'LL SQUEEZE SOME ON!
SENPAI, THE LE--
IWAYA-SAN.
LET'S MOVE IN TOGETHER RIGHT AWAY.
BEFORE FALL...
LET'S MAKE IT OFFICIAL. LET'S GET MARRIED.

ABOUT YOUR JOB...
I THINK YOU COULD WORK FREELANCE.
YOU COULD WRITE LOCAL PIECES FOR THE SATELLITE EDITION RIGHT AWAY.
BUT, OF COURSE... THEN YOU WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO WRITE ABOUT MANY THINGS, BUT...
...YOU COULD GRADUALLY BROADEN YOUR FIELD.
THAT IS TRUE.
I THOUGHT OF THAT, TOO.
THINGS WOULD NOT CHANGE THAT MUCH, SINCE I WOULD STILL BE IN THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT, EVEN THOUGH THE SCOPE OF MY WORK WOULD BE SMALLER.
AFTER ALL... I STILL WOULD LIKE TO WORK UNTIL WE HAVE CHILDREN.
CHILDREN...
BLUSH
THAT'S RIGHT. THAT'S GREAT.
YEP.
CHILDREN...
BLUSH
SO IT IS TRUE.
I THOUGHT SO.

OH!
SENPAI, THAT!
HMM?
LEMON!
ARRRGH!
THE LAST PIECE.
HASUMI IS A FAST EATER.
SENPAI...
YOU HAVE ME, BUT YOU AND FUKUSHIMA-SAN ARE...
THAT IS DETESTABLE.
IWAYA-SAN!
NO!
W-WAIT A MINUTE...

THAT'S NOT HOW IT IS! SHE AND I HAVEN'T...
LIAR.
YOU REALLY HAVEN'T?
CAN YOU BE ABSOLUTELY SURE OF THAT?
CAN YOU BE...
UUGH...
...ABSOLUTELY SURE OF THAT?

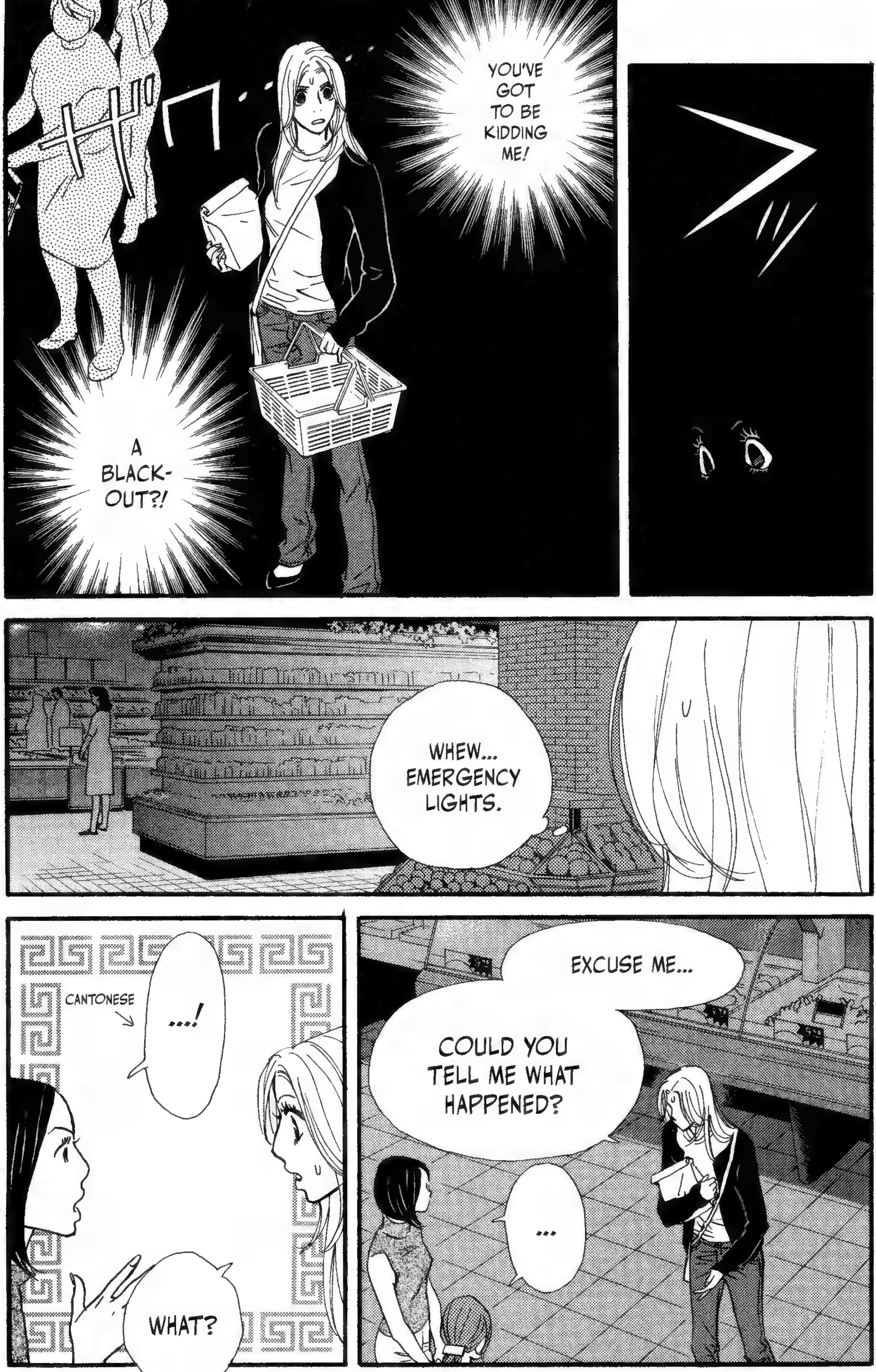

A DREAM...
WHERE'S IWAYA-SAN?
I'M SLUGGISH THIS MORNING.
NOT ENOUGH SLEEP, HUH?
IT'S HARD TO SLEEP IN A BED WITH SOMEONE ELSE.

WELL, AFTER ALL, MOMO IS A PET.
THAT'S WHY IT WAS OKAY.
CLACK
!!
EEK!
FWOOSH
UH, SORRY!
THAT'S OKAY!
HUH...?
WHY IS SHE SUDDENLY EMBARRASSED?
VERY SORRY! I'LL BE OUT SOON!

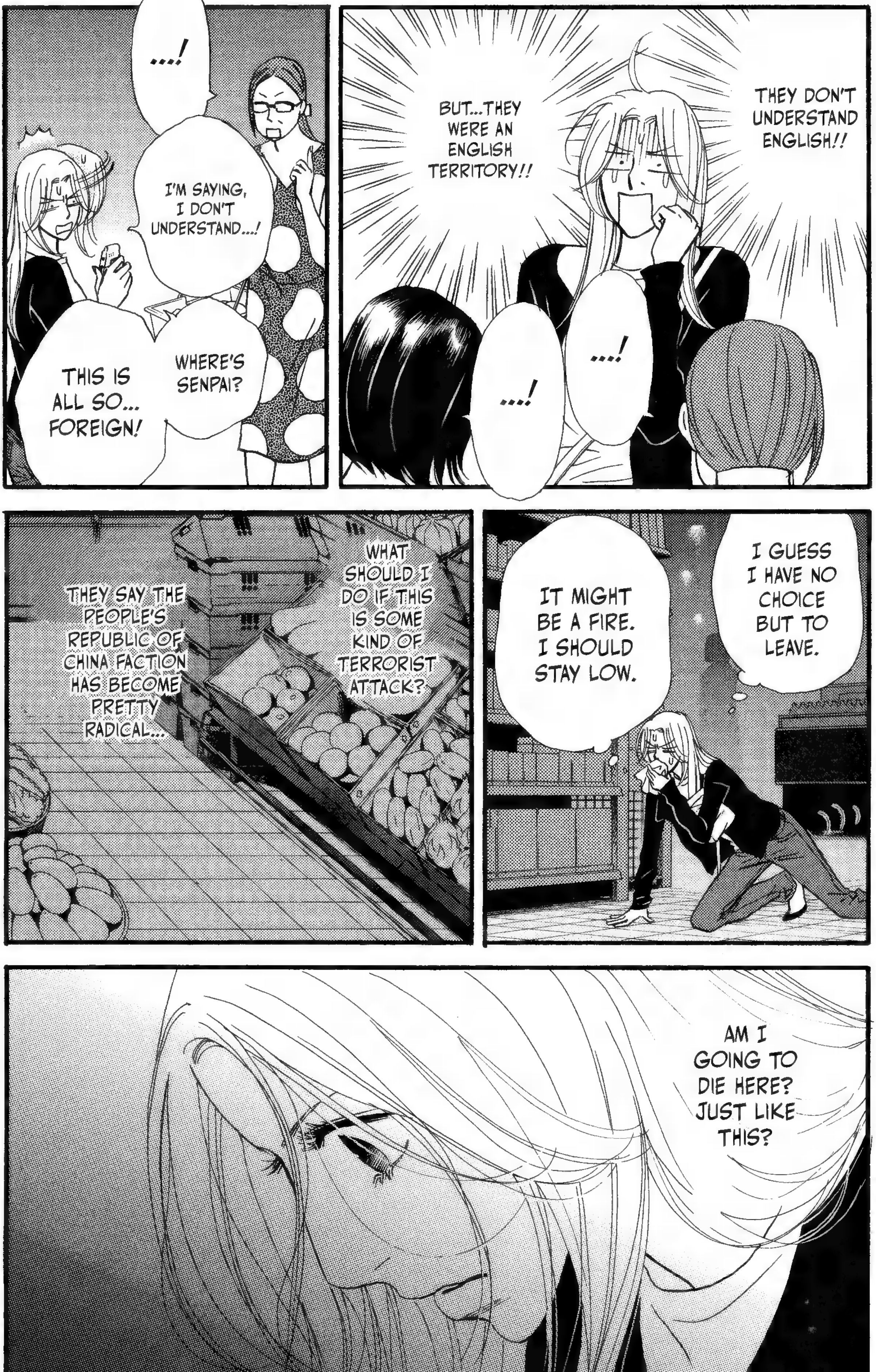
HER BASHFULNESS IS ONE OF THE THINGS I LIKE ABOUT HER, BUT...
PHEW. I WAS JUST ABOUT TO LIGHT UP.
FOOMF
S-SORRY. PLEASE... GO AHEAD.
CLICK
...
...WH- WHAT'S WRONG?
MY FACE?
NO... IWAYA-SAN, *YOU* DON'T LOOK VERY DIFFERENT WITHOUT MAKEUP, DO YOU?

WELL, I DO HAVE A LITTLE LIGHT FOUNDATION ON, BUT...
DOESN'T REALIZE HIS MISTAKE. →
...OTHER THAN THAT...
"IWAYA-SAN... YOU DON'T" ...
WHAT'S WITH HIM?
IWAYA-SAN...
I LOVE YOU. MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE.
WHEN A MAN SAYS, "YOU'RE NUMBER ONE"...
...IT MEANS THERE'S A NUMBER TWO...
NUMBER TWO...
NUMBER TWO...
A SLEW OF MISTAKES!
NEW AGE
I SEE...

IT'S THE FOURTH DAY AND I'M ALREADY EXHAUSTED.
RIIING
HELLO?
IWAYA-SAN. WHERE ARE YOU?
AT THE LOCAL... UMM...STORE (TO BUY A CHANGE OF PANTIES)!
Ribbon Emporium
GOT IT. WELL, WHY DON'T I SWING BY, SINCE I'M ABOUT TO LEAVE WORK?
LET'S GO HOME TOGETHER.
UH...SURE! I'LL BE AT THE GROCERY STORE, ON THE BASEMENT LEVEL.
OKAY.
I FEEL LIKE I'VE BEEN PUT UNDER HOUSE ARREST.
BAGS UNDER HER EYES
WHAT SHOULD I COOK TONIGHT?
IT'S SO MUCH EASIER TO PLAN MEALS FOR MOMO...

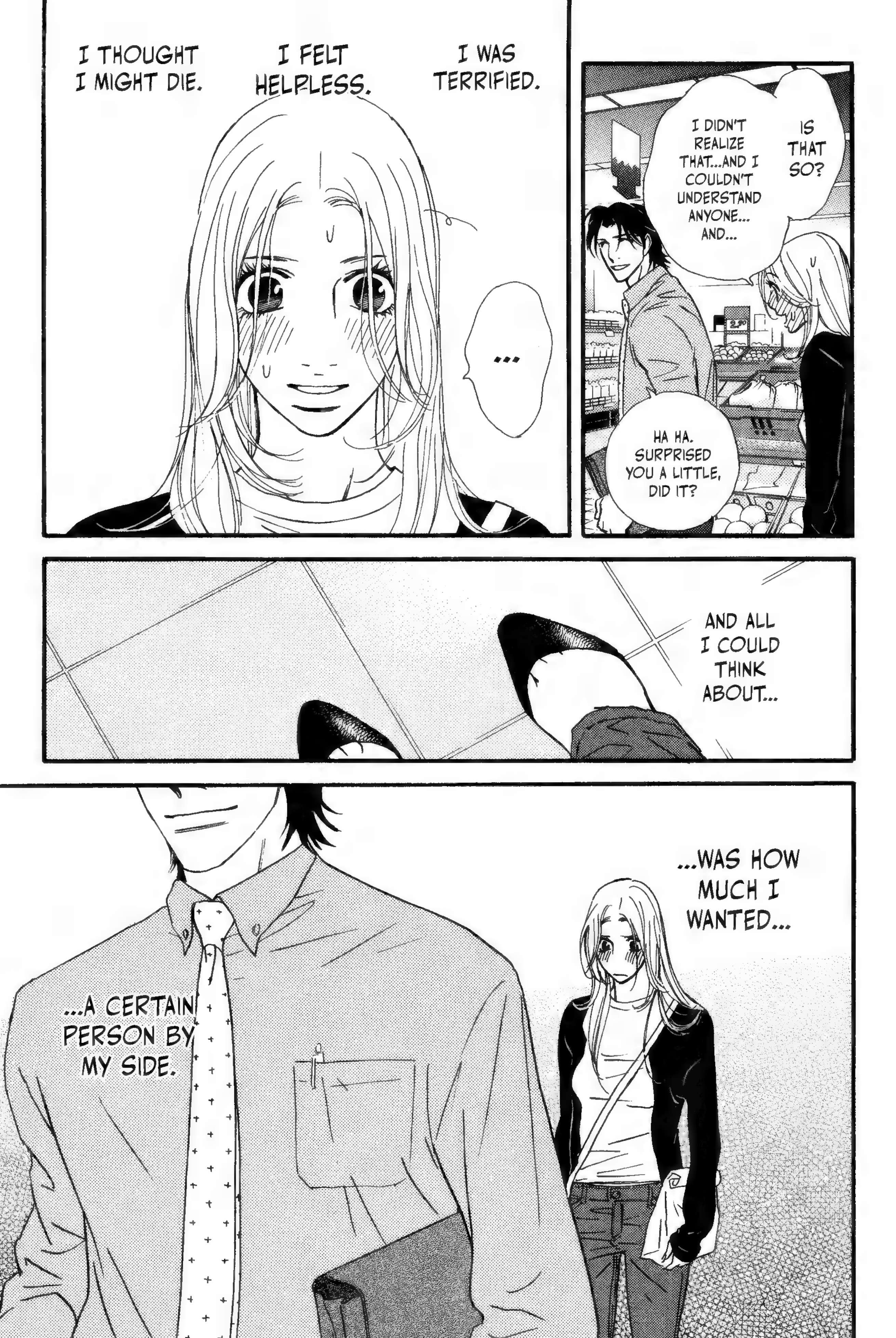

YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME!
A BLACK-OUT?!
WHEW... EMERGENCY LIGHTS.
EXCUSE ME...
COULD YOU TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED?
...
CANTONESE
...!
WHAT?

BLACKOUTS DON'T HAPPEN AS OFTEN IN JAPAN.



I HAVE TO GO HOME.
NO.

IWAYA-SAN!
THEY'RE BACK ON ALREADY?
WHY ARE YOU SITTING DOWN?! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
UH... UM...
THERE WAS JUST A BLACKOUT.
YEAH, LOOKS LIKE IT, HUH?
THE BUILDING'S OLD, SO IT HAPPENS EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE.
BUT I HEAR THEY'RE GOING TO RENOVATE SOON.

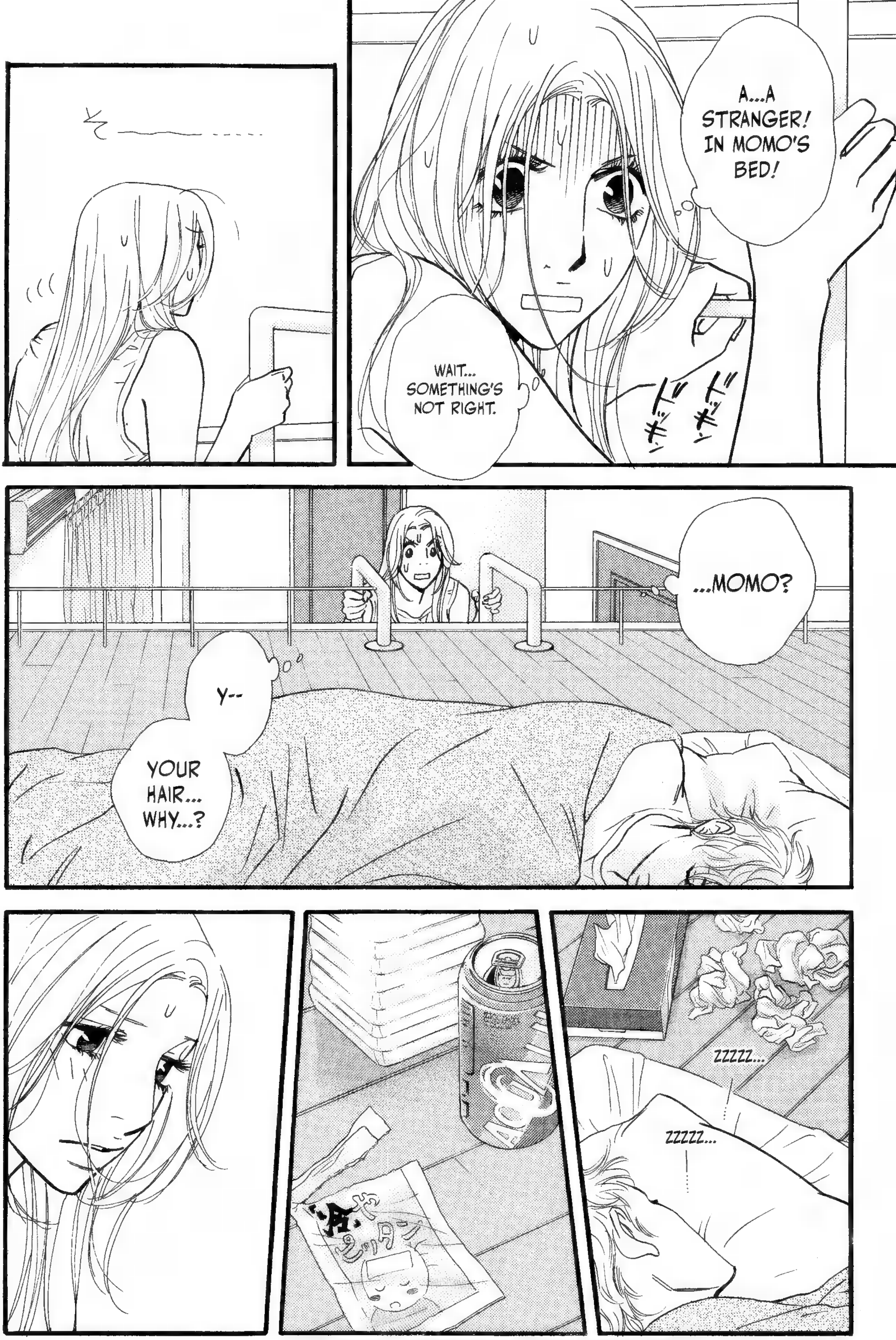

I THOUGHT I MIGHT DIE.
I FELT HELPLESS.
I WAS TERRIFIED.
...
IS THAT SO?
I DIDN'T REALIZE THAT...AND I COULDN'T UNDERSTAND ANYONE... AND...
HA HA. SURPRISED YOU A LITTLE, DID IT?
AND ALL I COULD THINK ABOUT...
...WAS HOW MUCH I WANTED...
...A CERTAIN PERSON BY MY SIDE.

RIIIING
HELLO?
YES, THIS IS HE.
WHAT?
IWAYA-SAN, IT'S FOR YOU.
IT'S A WOMAN NAMED... SHIROTAE-SAN.
HUH?
YURI-CHAN? WHAT'S WRONG?
SORRY TO BOTHER YOU, BUT SOMETHING'S BEEN BOTHERING ME.
IT SEEMS YOUR PET HAS A COLD.
WHEN HE FINALLY PICKED UP THE PHONE, HIS VOICE WAS REALLY WEAK...
AND TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, RAN'S SICK, TOO, SO I CAN'T GO CHECK UP ON HIM.
GOTCHA. THANK YOU.

SENPAI, I'M...LEAVING TOMORROW MORNING.
...WHAT?
I'M SORRY... MY FRIEND WAS TAKING CARE OF MY...
...DOG... AND IT SEEMS HE'S SICK.
YOU MEAN MOMO-CHAN?
BRINGS BACK MEMORIES, DOESN'T IT?
YOU USED TO ALWAYS HAVE TO GO HOME AND TAKE CARE OF YOUR DOG.
I-I'M SORRY.
NO! I MEAN...HOW SHOULD I PUT THIS?
YOU WERE LIKE CINDERELLA RUSHING HOME FROM THE BALL...AND IT CAPTIVATED ME ALL THE MORE.

I LIKE HIM... SO MUCH.
EVERY TIME I THINK OF HIM, EVERY TIME I TOUCH HIM...
...I GET SO EMOTIONAL, I CAN'T EVEN SPEAK.
SO WHY IS IT...
...THAT WHEN THE WORLD COMES CRASHING DOWN...
...HE'S NOT THE ONE I WANT TO BE WITH?

CLICK
I'M HOME!
...MOMO?
CLANNNG
MOMO...

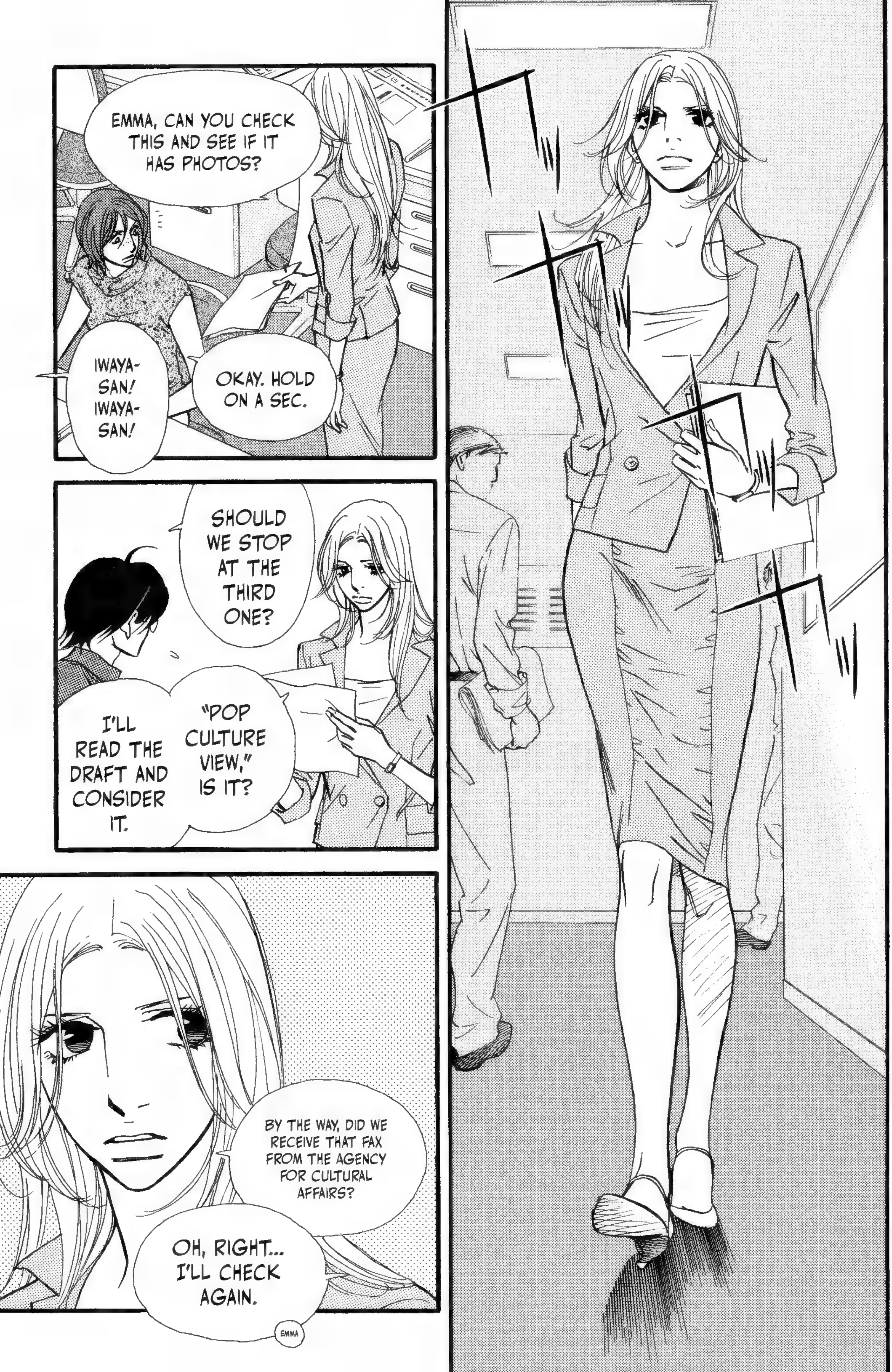


*HIYA PITTAN, A JAPANESE COLD REMEDY APPLIED DIRECTLY TO THE FOREHEAD.

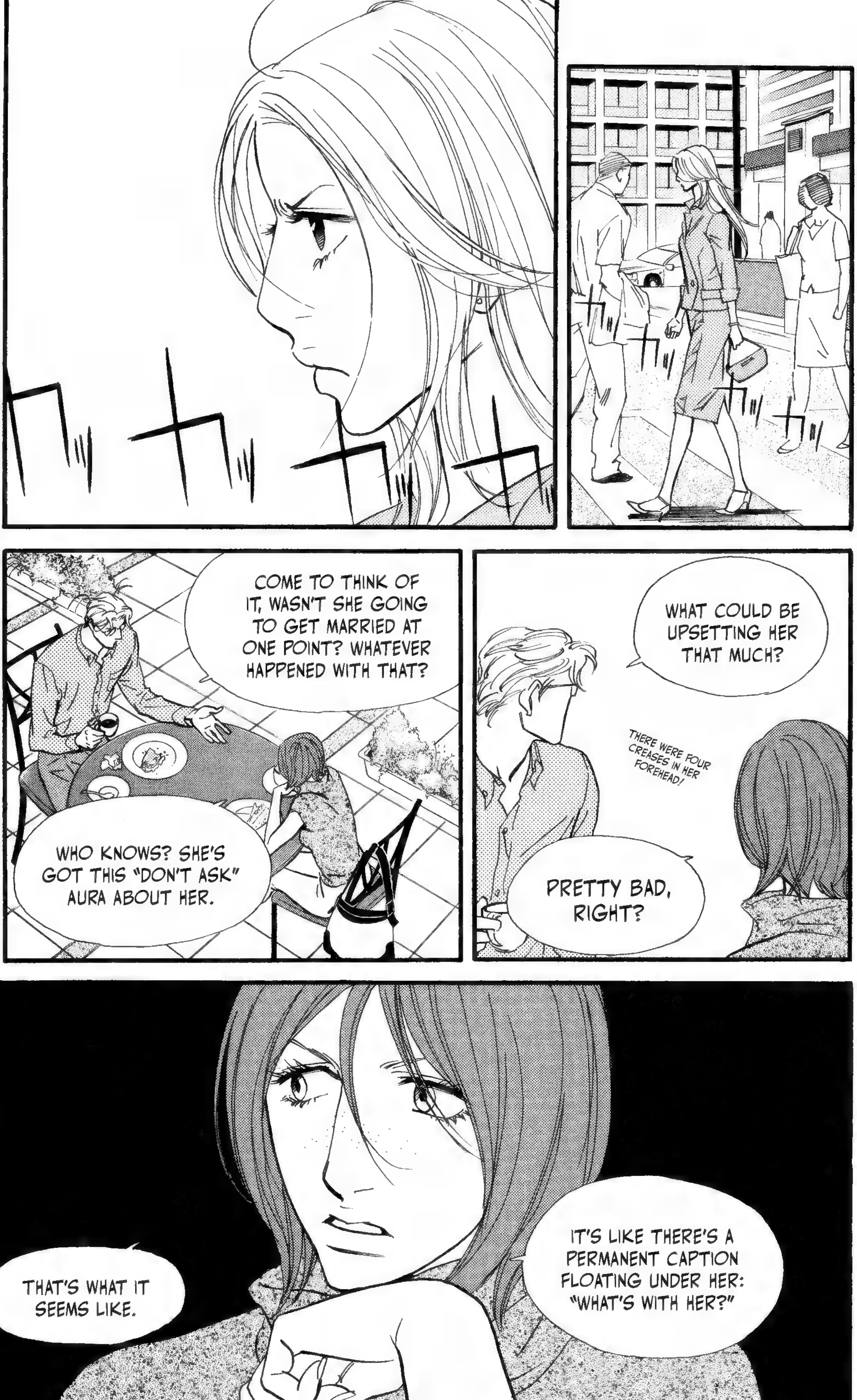
POOR THING... ALL ALONE WHEN HE WAS SICK.
I'M SO SORRY.
SUMIRE-CHAN...
I'M SO GLAD... YOU'RE HOME.
I...

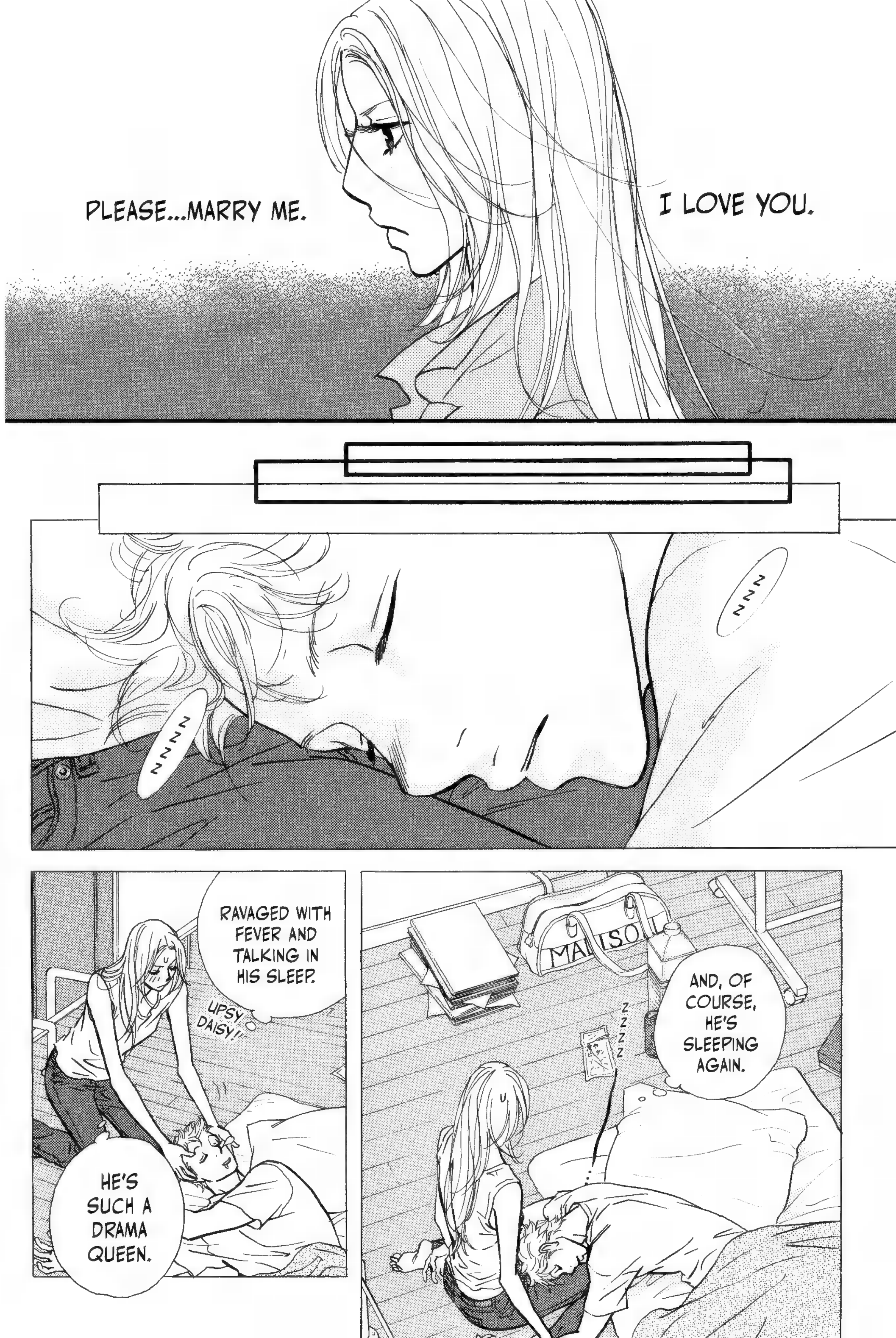
I LOVE YOU.
PLEASE... MARRY ME.
HUH?!

MOMO
RULE 67: WHAT'S WITH HER?

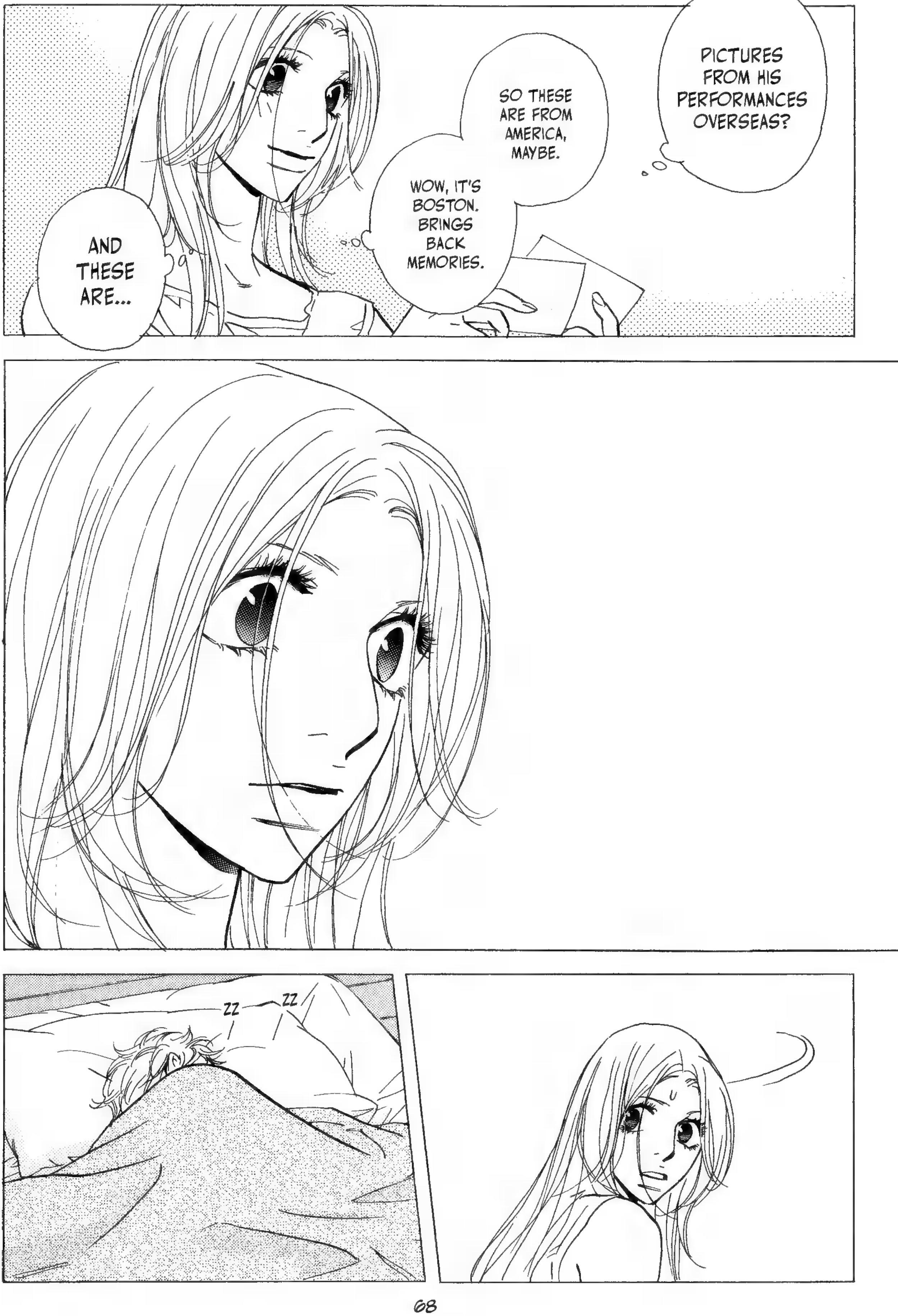

EMMA, CAN YOU CHECK THIS AND SEE IF IT HAS PHOTOS?
OKAY. HOLD ON A SEC.
IWAYA-SAN! IWAYA-SAN!
SHOULD WE STOP AT THE THIRD ONE?
"POP CULTURE VIEW," IS IT?
I'LL READ THE DRAFT AND CONSIDER IT.
BY THE WAY, DID WE RECEIVE THAT FAX FROM THE AGENCY FOR CULTURAL AFFAIRS?
OH, RIGHT... I'LL CHECK AGAIN.
EMMA

CAFESAND
IWAYA'S BEEN ACTING VERY STRANGE LATELY.
LATELY? YOU MEAN ALWAYS?
QUITE RIGHT, BUT...WELL, LISTEN.
AND SUDDENLY SHE'S WORKING HARDER THAN EVER...OH!
SPEAK OF THE DEVIL.
SHE'S BEEN TAKING A LOT OF DAYS OFF... AND YOU CAN TELL SHE'S NOT REALLY INTO HER WORK.
TO BE HONEST, IT'S EASIER TO WORK WITH HER WHEN SHE'S LIKE THIS, BUT...
...YESTERDAY SHE WAS IN SUCH A MOOD, LIKE SHE WAS TAKING REVENGE FOR HER PARENTS' MURDER OR SOMETHING.


COME TO THINK OF IT, WASN'T SHE GOING TO GET MARRIED AT ONE POINT? WHATEVER HAPPENED WITH THAT?
WHO KNOWS? SHE'S GOT THIS "DON'T ASK" AURA ABOUT HER.
WHAT COULD BE UPSETTING HER THAT MUCH?
THERE WERE FOUR CREASES IN HER FOREHEAD!
PRETTY BAD, RIGHT?
IT'S LIKE THERE'S A PERMANENT CAPTION FLOATING UNDER HER: "WHAT'S WITH HER?"
THAT'S WHAT IT SEEMS LIKE.

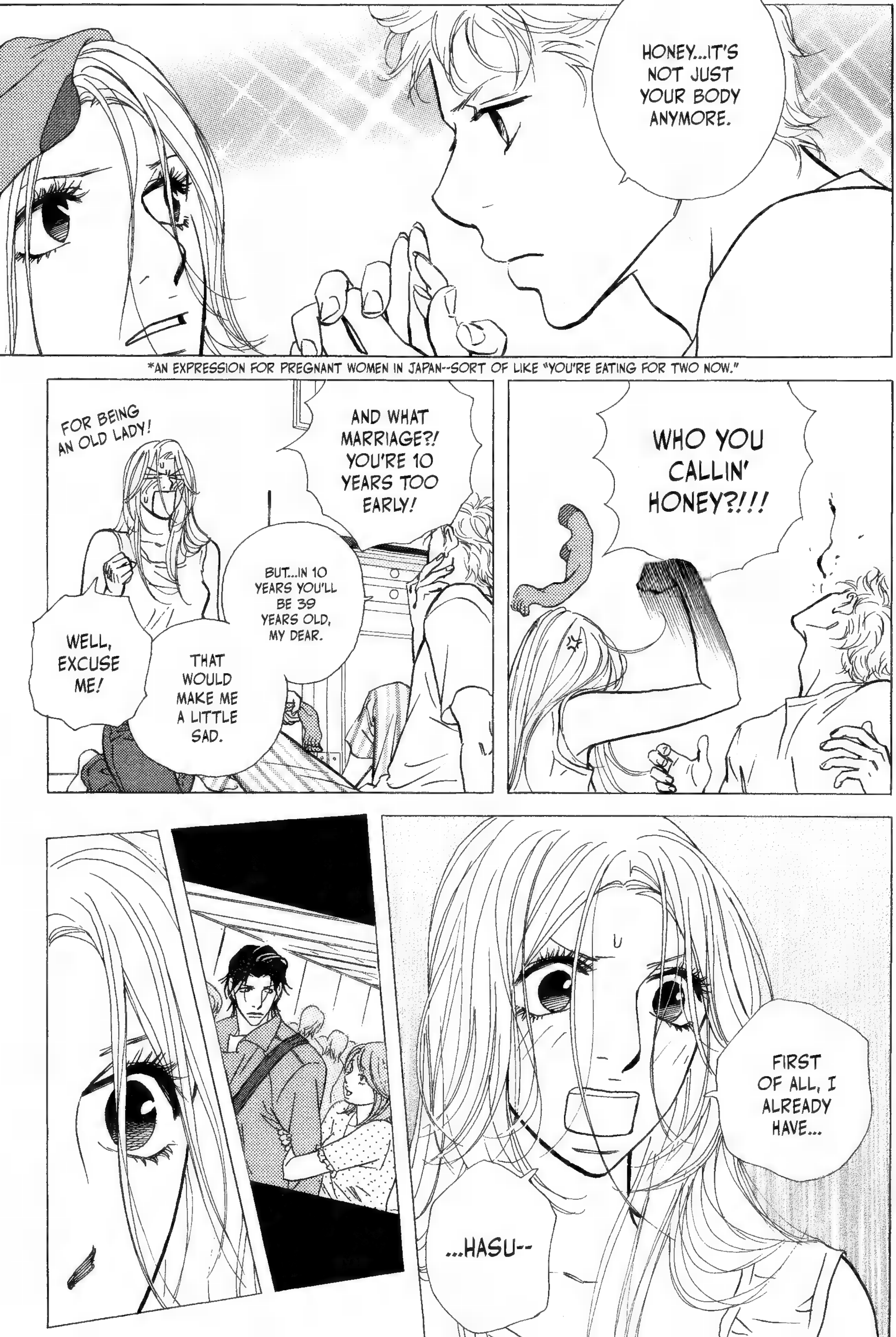

I LOVE YOU.
PLEASE...MARRY ME.
ZZZZ
ZZZZ
AND, OF COURSE, HE'S SLEEPING AGAIN.
ZZZZ
...
RAVAGED WITH FEVER AND TALKING IN HIS SLEEP.
UPSY DAISY!!
HE'S SUCH A DRAMA QUEEN.

WHAT'S HE DREAMING ABOUT, ANYWAY?
AH......
ACTUALLY...
I FEEL HOT, TOO.
WHAT A MESS.
HIS LAUNDRY MUST BE AMAZING.
WHOA! THOUGHT SO.
HE JUST LEFT THEM IN HIS BAG!
WHEN DID HE WEAR THESE?
FLAP
HMMM?
WHAT'S THIS?


PICTURES FROM HIS PERFORMANCES OVERSEAS?
SO THESE ARE FROM AMERICA, MAYBE.
WOW, IT'S BOSTON. BRINGS BACK MEMORIES.
AND THESE ARE...
ZZ ZZ

WHAT?!
WHY?!
UGH...
はっ
SQUEEZE
SUMIRE-CHAN?
OH, DID I WAKE YOU?
I BET YOU'RE HUNGRY. I'LL MAKE YOU DINNER RIGHT NOW, OKAY?

IT WASN'T A DREAM AFTER ALL.
WHAT WASN'T?
THAT I TOLD YOU I LOVED YOU AND ASKED YOU TO MARRY ME.
I'M GLAD.
ARE YOU OKAY?!
OOF.
OU...
...CH.
THUNK
TH-THUMP
THUD



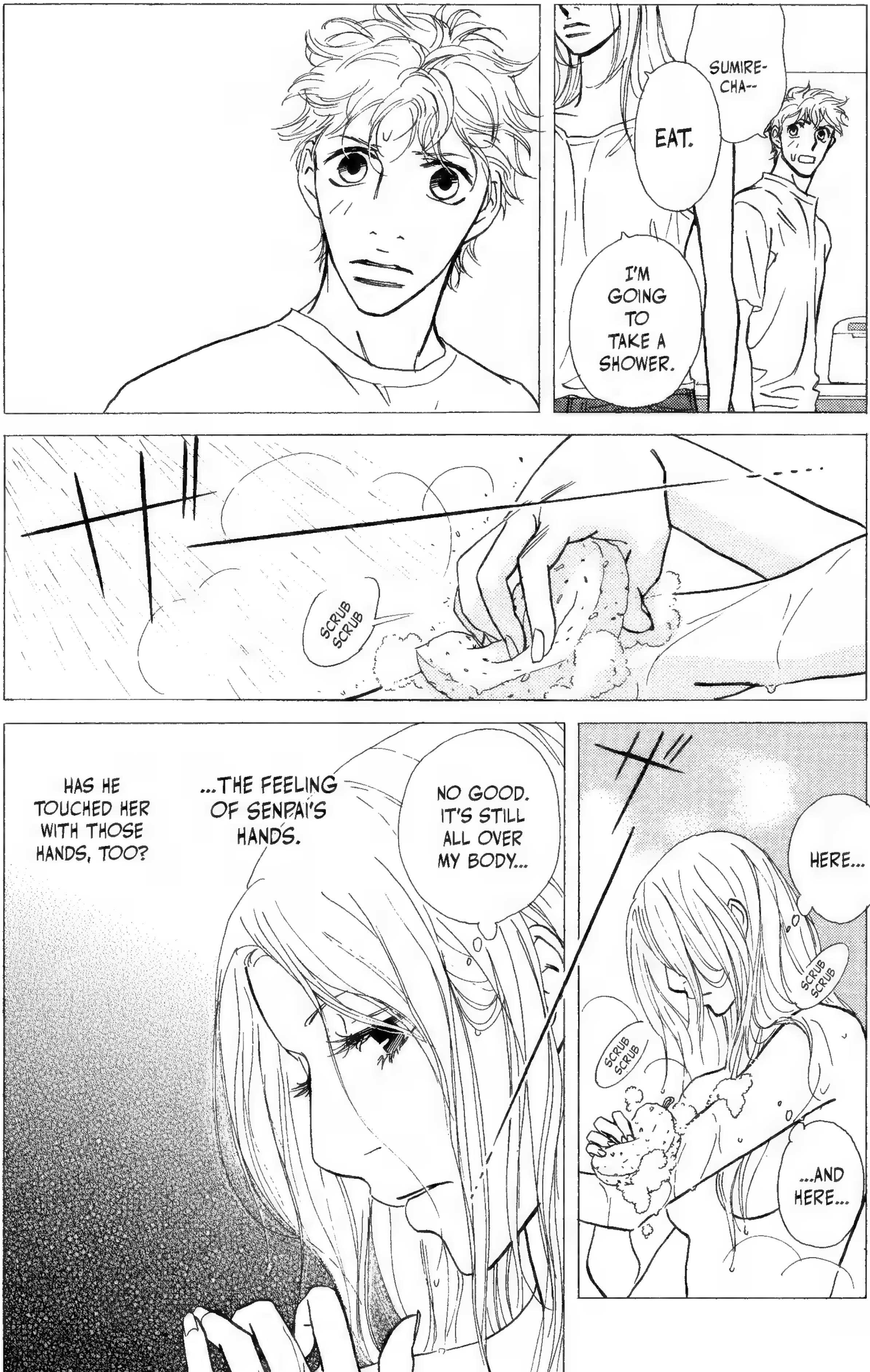
*AN EXPRESSION FOR PREGNANT WOMEN IN JAPAN--SORT OF LIKE "YOU'RE EATING FOR TWO NOW."

...
...SUMIRE-CHAN?
ALL RIGHT, NO MORE BAD JOKES.
I'M GOING TO MAKE DINNER.
...

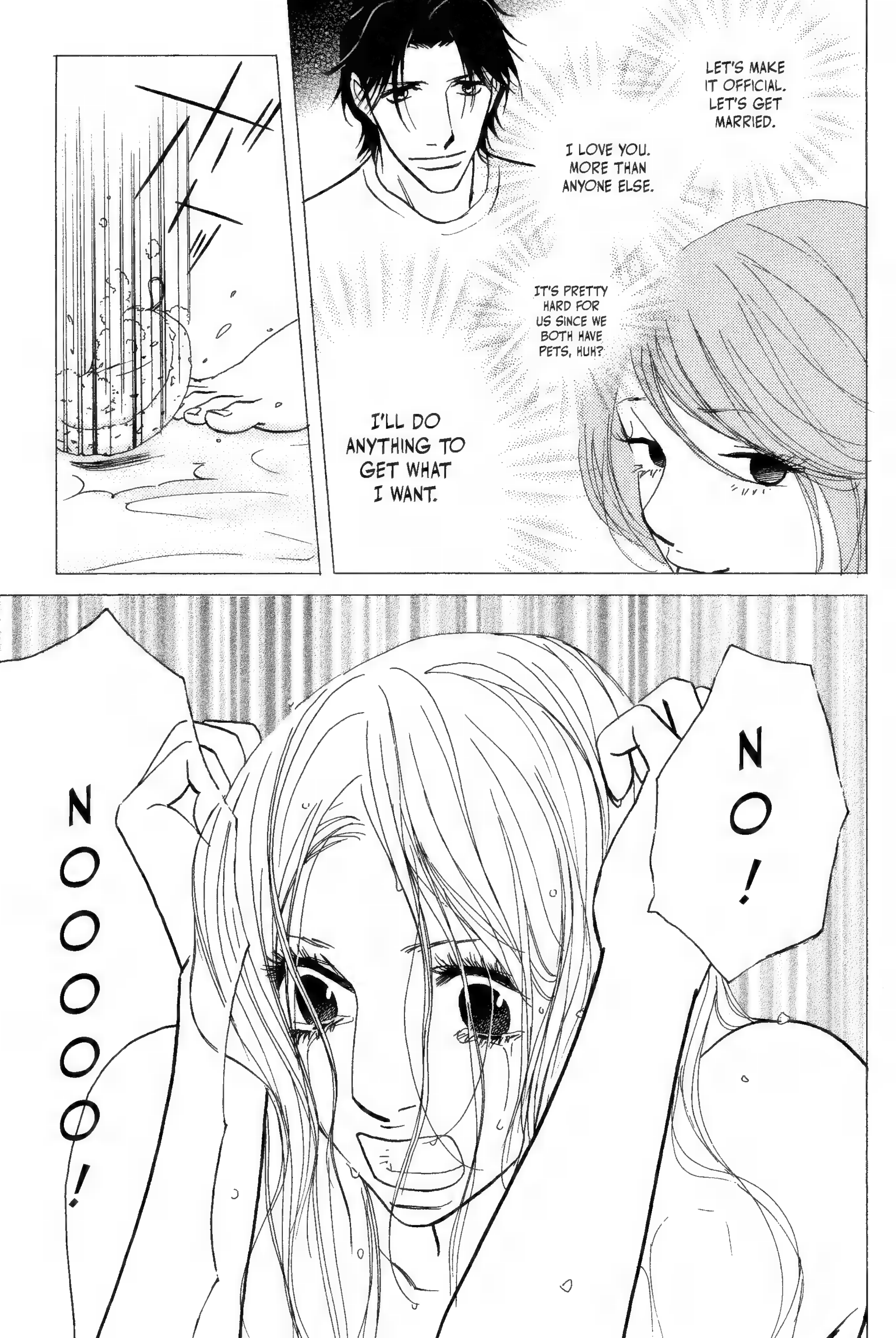
HOW WAS HONG KONG?
WHY ARE YOU HOLDING YOUR CROTCH? DO YOU HAVE TO PEE?
NO REASON! AND IT'S NOT MY CROTCH!
HOW'S HASUMI-KUN?
HE'S FINE.
WHY DO YOU ASK?
NO REASON...

THIS PHOTO.
WHERE DID YOU TAKE IT?
SWIPE
I'M, LIKE, SO SURPRISED!!
WOW! THIS GUY LOOKS JUST LIKE HASUMI-KUN!
PRETTY HANDSOME, DON'T YOU THINK?
MAYBE IT'S HIS LONG LOST BROTHER--
OWWW!
PAPER CUT!
TELL ME WHERE YOU TOOK THIS!

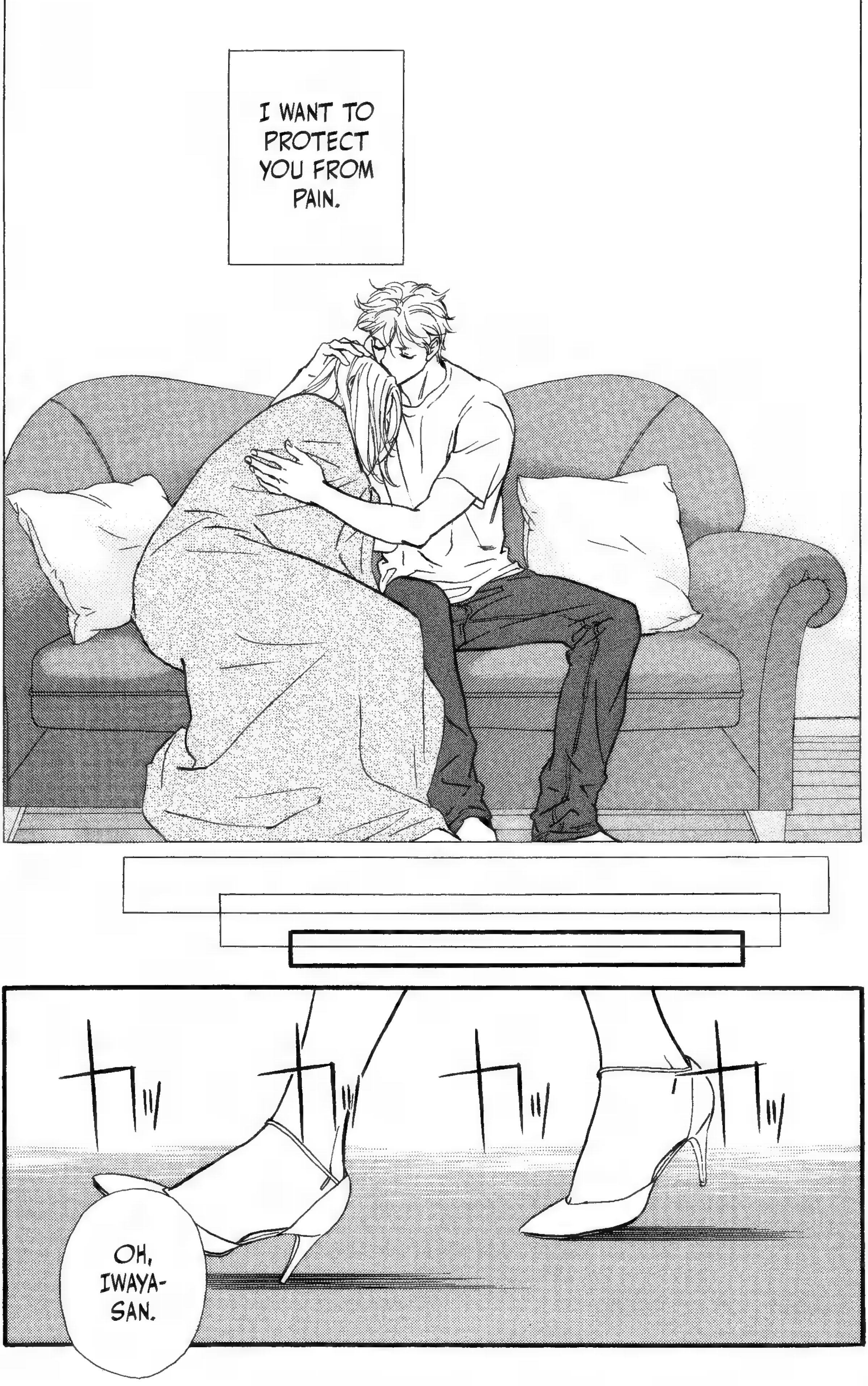
WHERE... DID I...
NOW!
HONG KONG.
AT THE AIRPORT.
THE CAT.
FUKU-CHAN.

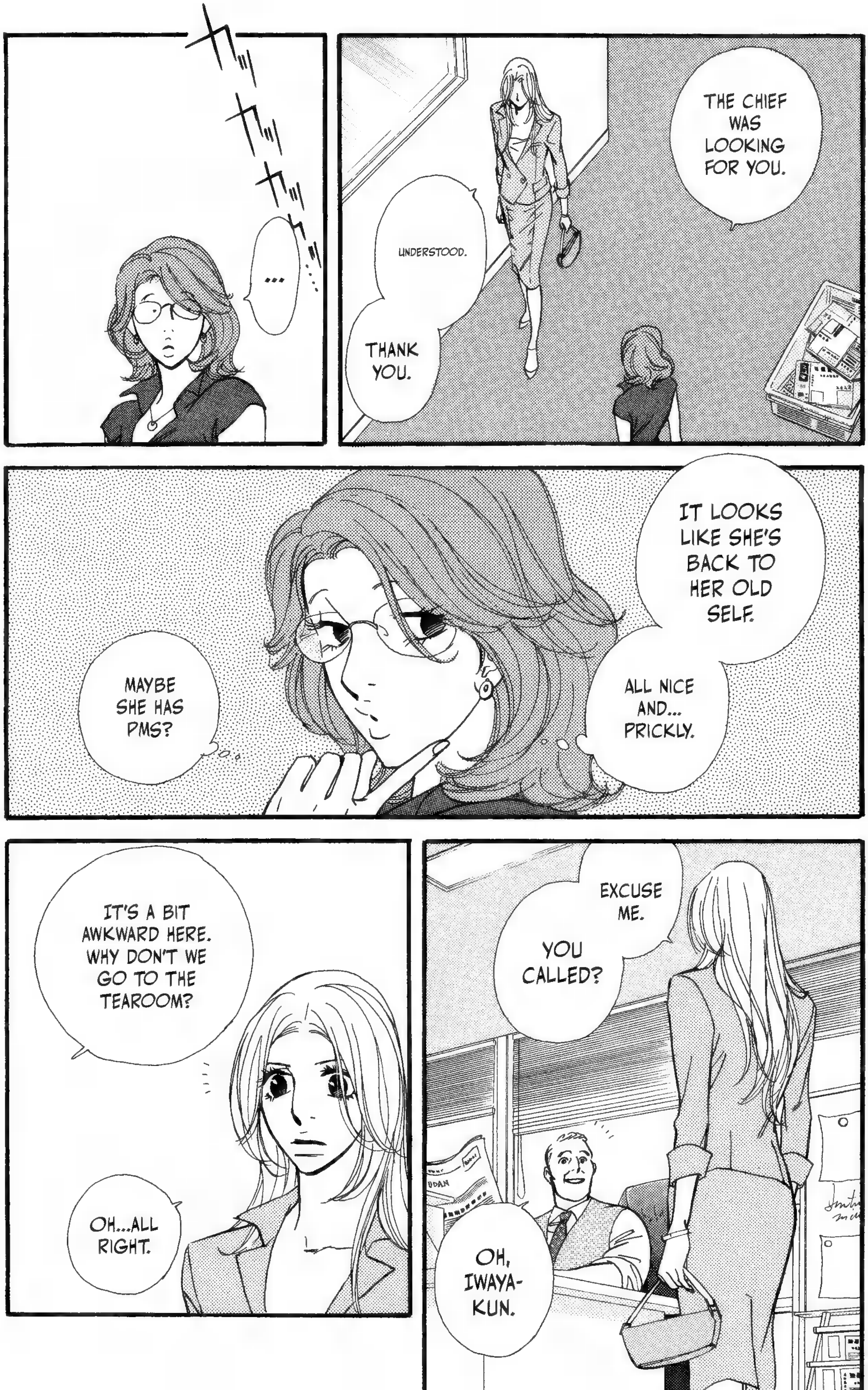


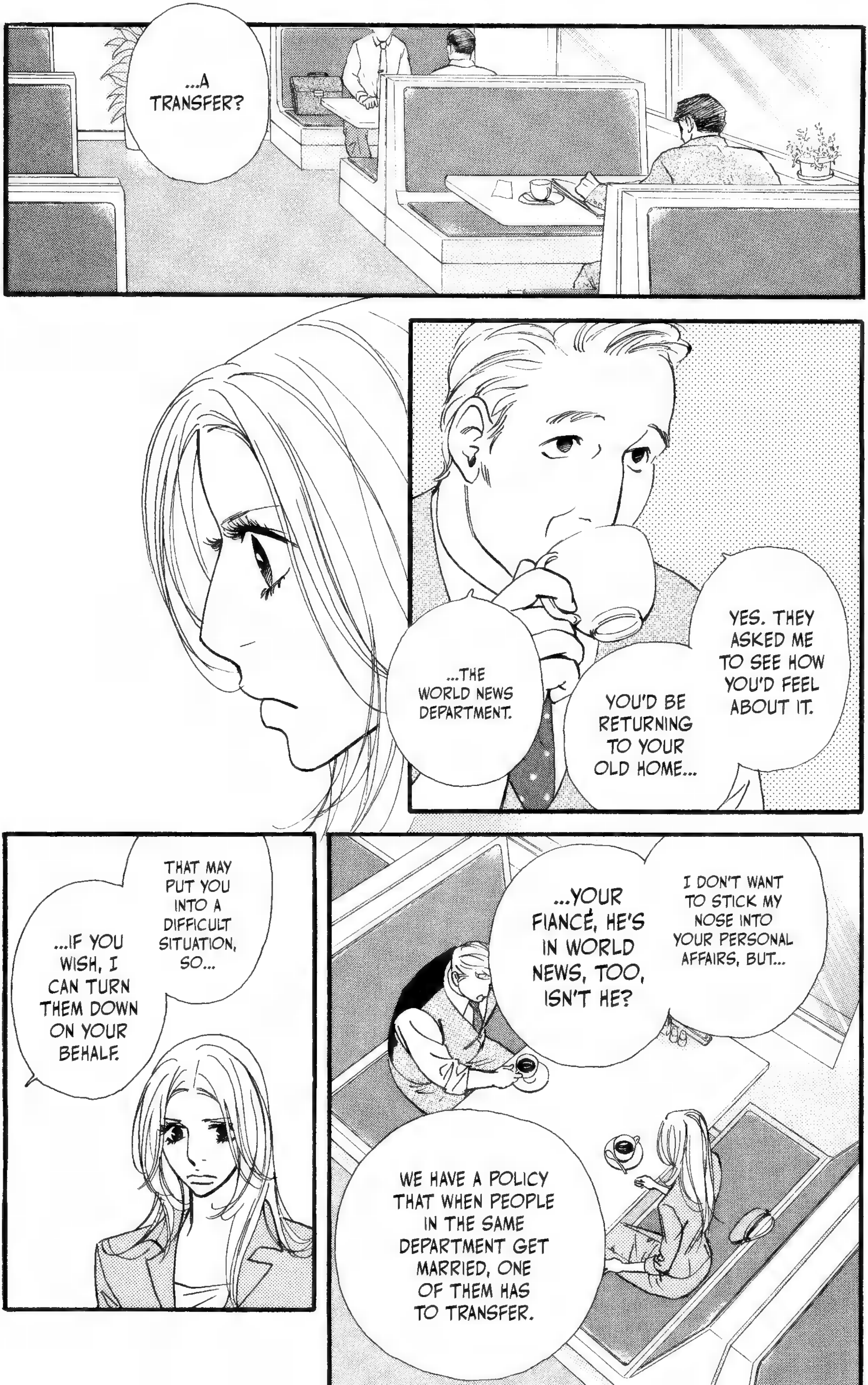
SUMIRE-CHA--
EAT.
I'M GOING TO TAKE A SHOWER.
SCRUB SCRUB
HAS HE TOUCHED HER WITH THOSE HANDS, TOO?
...THE FEELING OF SENPAI'S HANDS.
NO GOOD. IT'S STILL ALL OVER MY BODY...
HERE...
SCRUB SCRUB
SCRUB SCRUB
...AND HERE...


LET'S MAKE IT OFFICIAL. LET'S GET MARRIED.
I LOVE YOU. MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE.
IT'S PRETTY HARD FOR US SINCE WE BOTH HAVE PETS, HUH?
I'LL DO ANYTHING TO GET WHAT I WANT.
NO!
NOOOOOO!

ガチャ
SUMIRE-CHAN!
NOOOOO!
ARE YOU OKAY? GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF.
I'M GOING TO TURN OFF THE WATER, OKAY?
NO.
NO.
A PET SHOULD QUIETLY COME NEAR...
...AND GENTLY COMFORT ITS INJURED MASTER.


I WANT TO PROTECT YOU FROM PAIN.
OH, IWAYA-SAN.

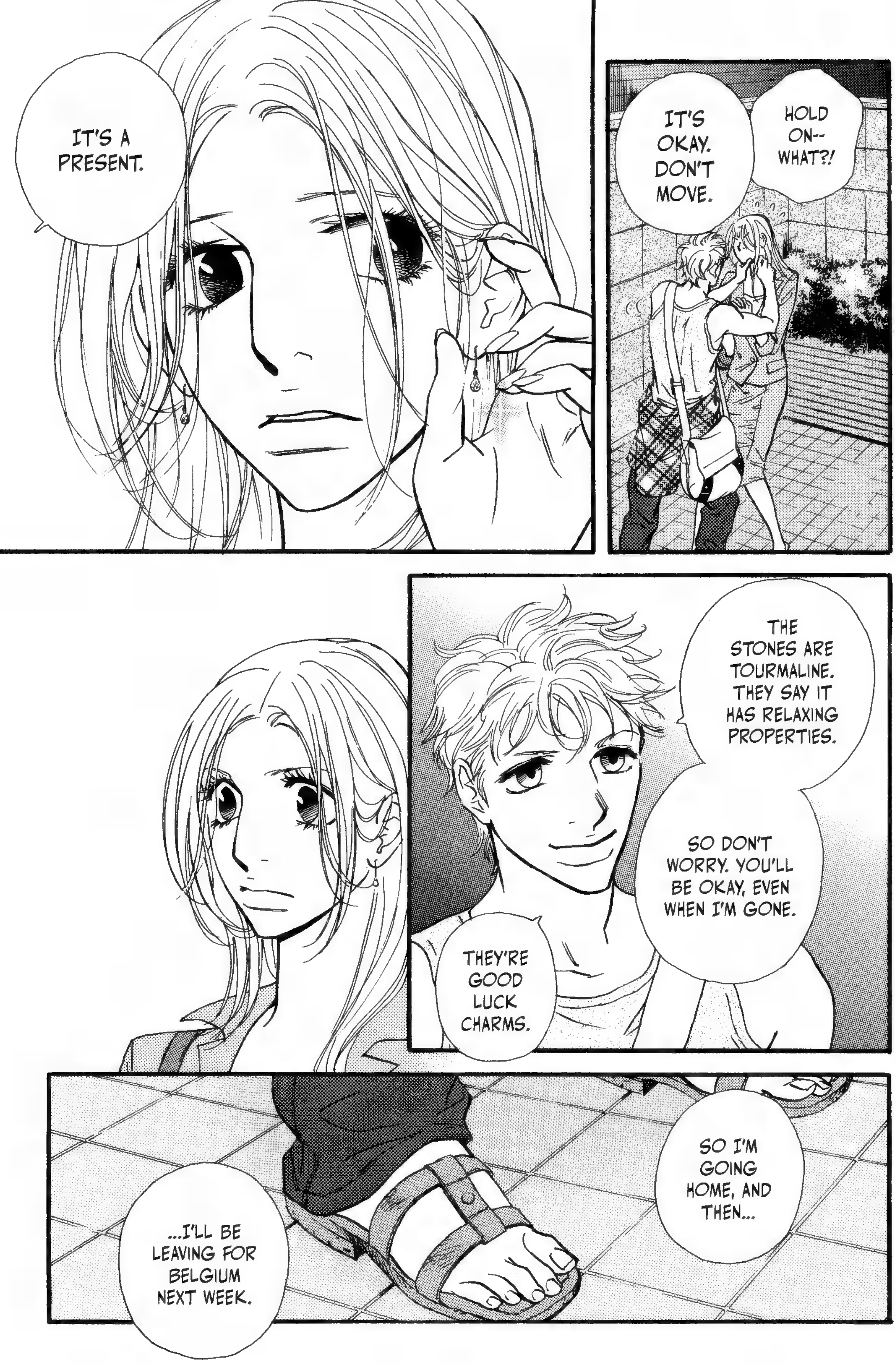

THE CHIEF WAS LOOKING FOR YOU.
UNDERSTOOD.
THANK YOU.
...
IT LOOKS LIKE SHE'S BACK TO HER OLD SELF.
ALL NICE AND... PRICKLY.
MAYBE SHE HAS PMS?
EXCUSE ME.
YOU CALLED?
OH, IWAYA-KUN.
IT'S A BIT AWKWARD HERE. WHY DON'T WE GO TO THE TEAROOM?
OH...ALL RIGHT.


...A TRANSFER?
YES. THEY ASKED ME TO SEE HOW YOU'D FEEL ABOUT IT.
YOU'D BE RETURNING TO YOUR OLD HOME...
...THE WORLD NEWS DEPARTMENT.
I DON'T WANT TO STICK MY NOSE INTO YOUR PERSONAL AFFAIRS, BUT...
...YOUR FIANCÉ, HE'S IN WORLD NEWS, TOO, ISN'T HE?
WE HAVE A POLICY THAT WHEN PEOPLE IN THE SAME DEPARTMENT GET MARRIED, ONE OF THEM HAS TO TRANSFER.
THAT MAY PUT YOU INTO A DIFFICULT SITUATION, SO...
...IF YOU WISH, I CAN TURN THEM DOWN ON YOUR BEHALF.

NO.
I'LL JUST...
...NEED SOME TIME TO THINK ABOUT IT.
I SEE. OF COURSE.
I'M SORRY. THE PRINTING IS PROBABLY DONE...
PLEASE EXCUSE ME.
WELL! THINGS ARE A BIT...
...TUR-BULENT AGAIN.
IT WAS ALL JUST A SWEET DREAM.

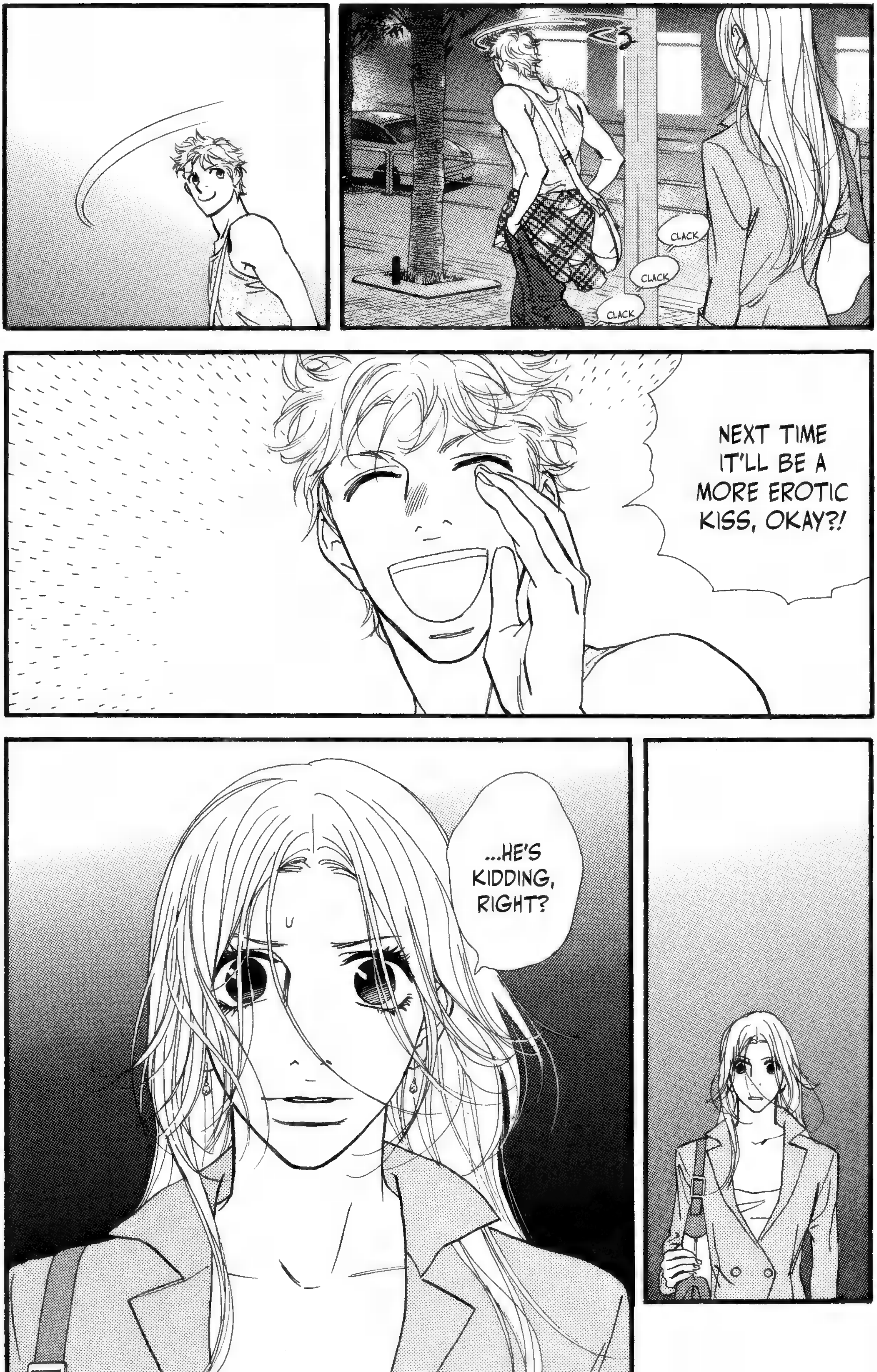
AND WHEN I WAKE UP, I WILL HAVE TO CHOOSE.
LEFT OR RIGHT.
WHICH PATH SHOULD I TAKE?
HELLO.
SUMIRE-CHAN? WHAT TIME ARE YOU GETTING OFF WORK?
...I'LL PROBABLY LEAVE THE OFFICE AROUND 9:30.
OKAY. I'LL WAIT FOR YOU OUTSIDE!
...WHAT?
OUTSIDE?

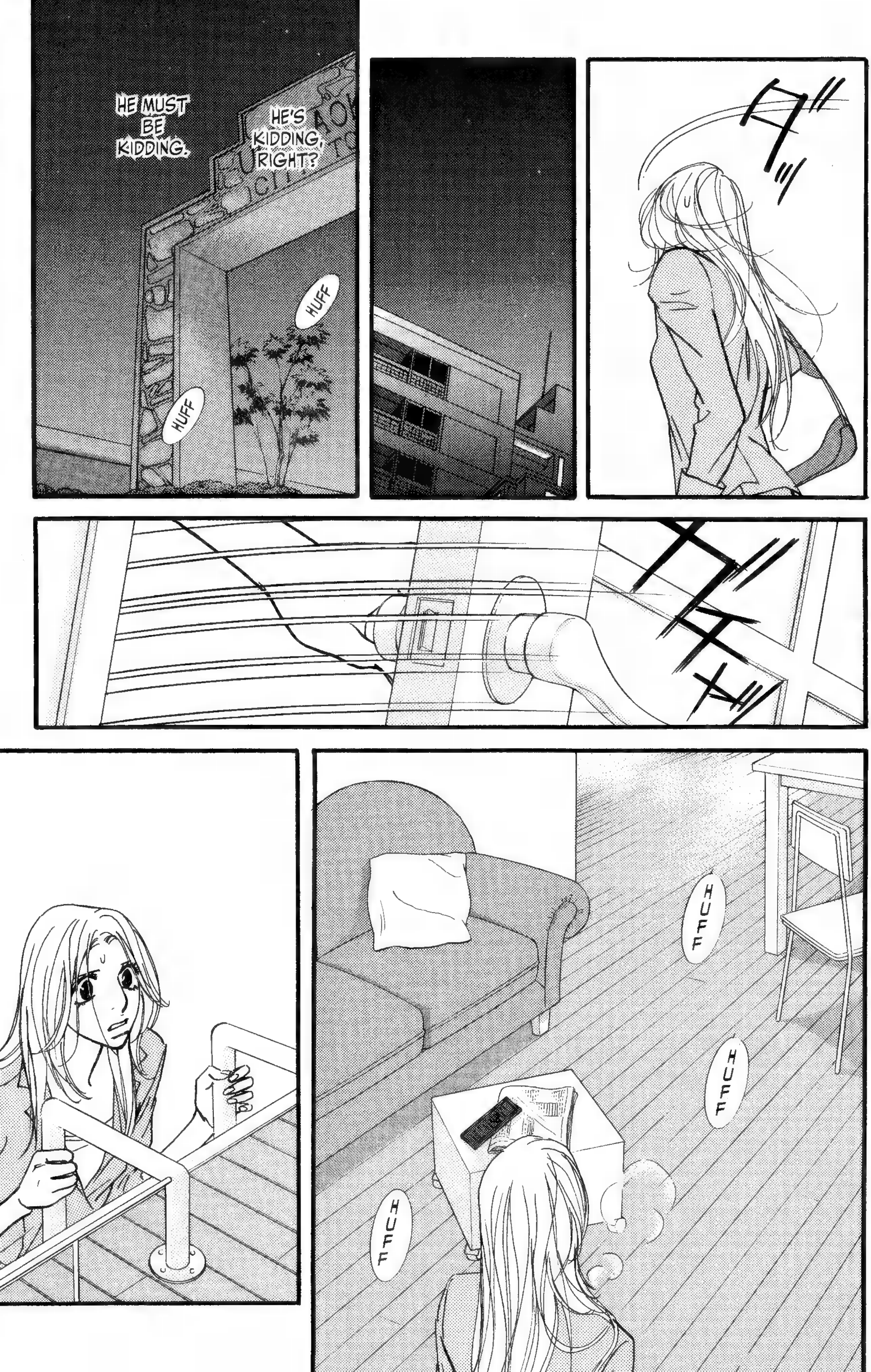
OVER HERE! OVER HERE!
TO WHAT DO I OWE THIS HONOR?
AND WHY DID YOU CUT YOUR HAIR??
UMM, FIRST...
...I USED THE CARDBOARD BOX TO SEND OUT MY STUFF.
CARDBOARD BOX...? YOU MEAN THAT--
RIGHTO. THE MEMENTO OF OUR LOVE THAT I CAME PACKED IN!
AND WHAT PART OF THAT IS THE MEMENTO OF OUR LOVE?
ANYWAY... STUFF? WHAT ARE YOU SENDING, AND WHERE?
YOU KNOW. ALL MY STUFF FROM THE LOFT AT HOME.
DON'T WORRY, I SORTED THROUGH EVERYTHING AND TOOK OUT MY TRASH.
...WHAT?
OH YEAH--AND THERE'S THIS.

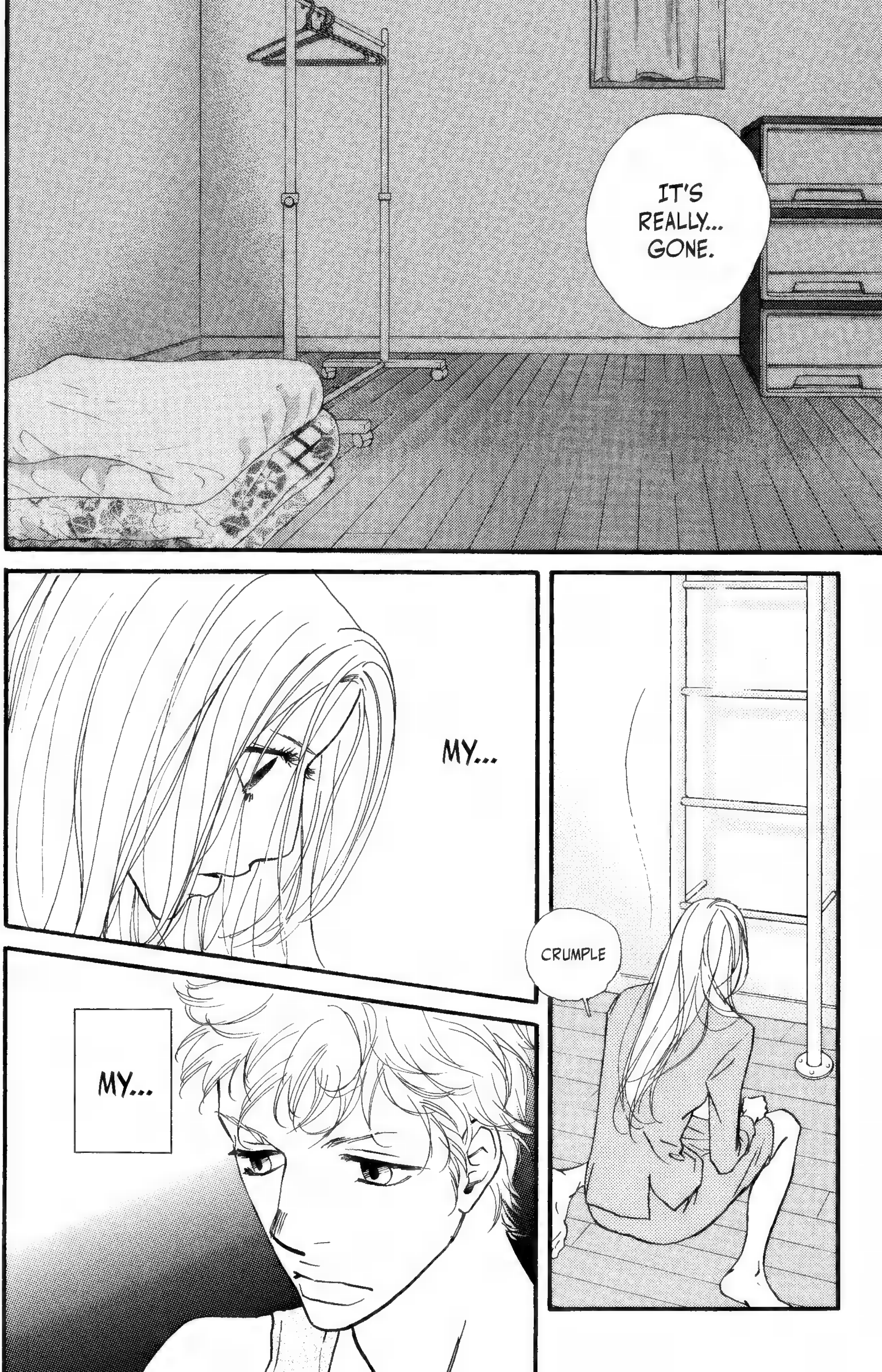

IT'S A PRESENT.
HOLD ON-- WHAT?!
IT'S OKAY. DON'T MOVE.
THE STONES ARE TOURMALINE. THEY SAY IT HAS RELAXING PROPERTIES.
SO DON'T WORRY. YOU'LL BE OKAY, EVEN WHEN I'M GONE.
THEY'RE GOOD LUCK CHARMS.
SO I'M GOING HOME, AND THEN...
...I'LL BE LEAVING FOR BELGIUM NEXT WEEK.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR TAKING CARE OF ME UNTIL NOW.
WHAT...?
BUT...THIS IS SO SUDDEN...
WHAT ...?
SQUEEZE
TO US...IT WAS LIKE A SHELTER, WASN'T IT?
IT WAS REALLY COMFORTING...
...AND NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I'M REINCARNATED, I'LL PROBABLY NEVER FIND A PLACE AS COMFORTABLE.

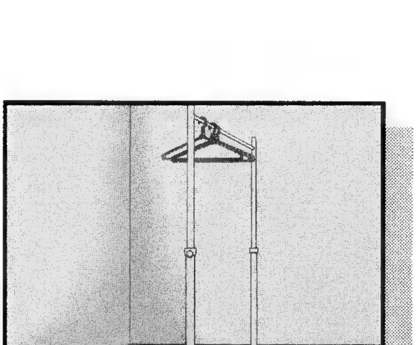
IT'S NOT LIKE I'M RUNNING AWAY.
I'M LEAVING...
...SO THAT ONE DAY I CAN PROTECT YOU FROM THIS WORLD OF POISON.
WAIT FOR ME, OKAY?


CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
NEXT TIME IT'LL BE A MORE EROTIC KISS, OKAY?!
...HE'S KIDDING, RIGHT?


HE'S KIDDING, RIGHT?
HE MUST BE KIDDING.
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

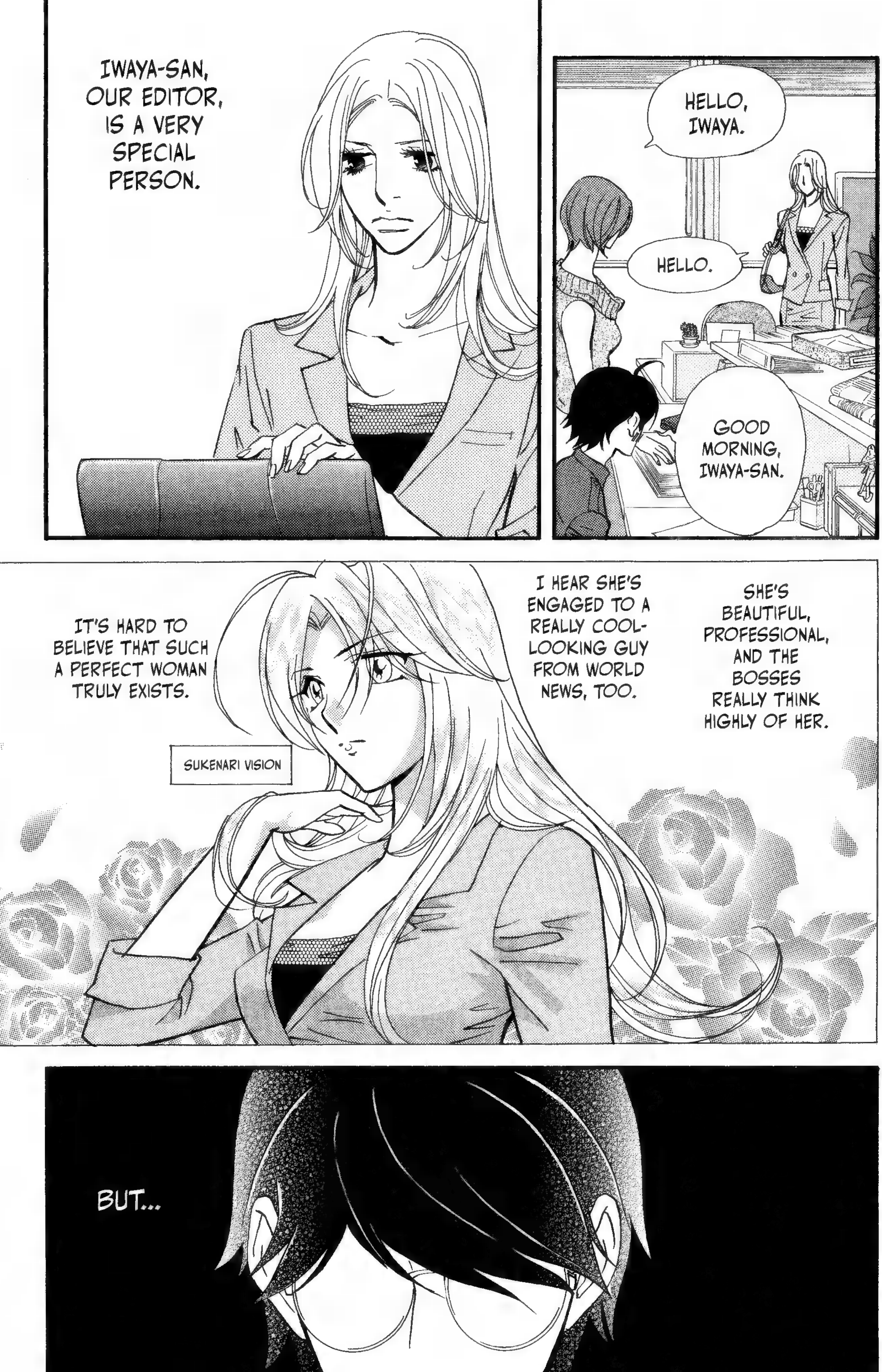

IT'S REALLY... GONE.
CRUMPLE
MY...
MY...

MY MORATORIUM IS OVER.



RULE 68:
I'VE LOST INTEREST IN EVERY MAN ON EARTH

MY NAME IS EDMUND SUKENARI.
I'M A REPORTER IN THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT AT KODAN NEWSPAPER.
I MAY SEEM YOUNG, BUT I'M ACTUALLY 29.
I WAS HAVING PROBLEMS AT WORK, BUT I SWITCHED JOBS AND NOW I'M REALLY HAPPY WITH MY COWORKERS...
の
しっ
...ASIDE FROM THE FACT THAT THEY SOMETIMES FORGET I EXIST.
OH, SORRY, SUKENARI!
IT'S JUST...I DIDN'T REALIZE YOU WERE THERE.


HELLO, IWAYA.
HELLO.
GOOD MORNING, IWAYA-SAN.
IWAYA-SAN, OUR EDITOR, IS A VERY SPECIAL PERSON.
SHE'S BEAUTIFUL, PROFESSIONAL, AND THE BOSSES REALLY THINK HIGHLY OF HER.
I HEAR SHE'S ENGAGED TO A REALLY COOL-LOOKING GUY FROM WORLD NEWS, TOO.
IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT SUCH A PERFECT WOMAN TRULY EXISTS.
SUKENARI VISION
BUT...

...IWAYA-SAN...I HAVE TO BE HONEST.
SUMIRE
I KNOW YOUR SECRET.
AND...?
IF YOU CALLED ME UP HERE JUST FOR SOME PATHETIC BIT OF GOSSIP...
...LIKE HOW SHE LOVES DAMART'S BREAD, OR HOW SHE'S HAD A LITTLE PLASTIC SURGERY--
I DON'T REMEMBER INVITING YOU UP, MR. OSWALD.
ALTHOUGH I WOULD BE SURPRISED TO FIND OUT THAT THOSE TITS ARE SILICONE...
NO WAY! (WELL, I DON'T KNOW FOR SURE, BUT...)
LOOK, IF YOU'RE GOING TO TALK LIKE PIGS, I'M GOING BACK, OKAY?
IT HAPPENED LAST NIGHT. I LEFT THE OFFICE LATER THAN USUAL...
MAYBE MY "MARIA MITE" DVD CAME TODAY!

IWAYA-SAN'S BEING ASSAULTED!
I HAVE TO SAVE HER!
SUKENARI VISION
OH...
WHAT'S GOING ON?
JUST A MINUTE, YOU!
OH...
IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S APOLOGIZING.
PLEASE. SO THEATRICAL!
I GUESS SO...
ALL RIGHT, LET'S GO BACK TWO PANELS.

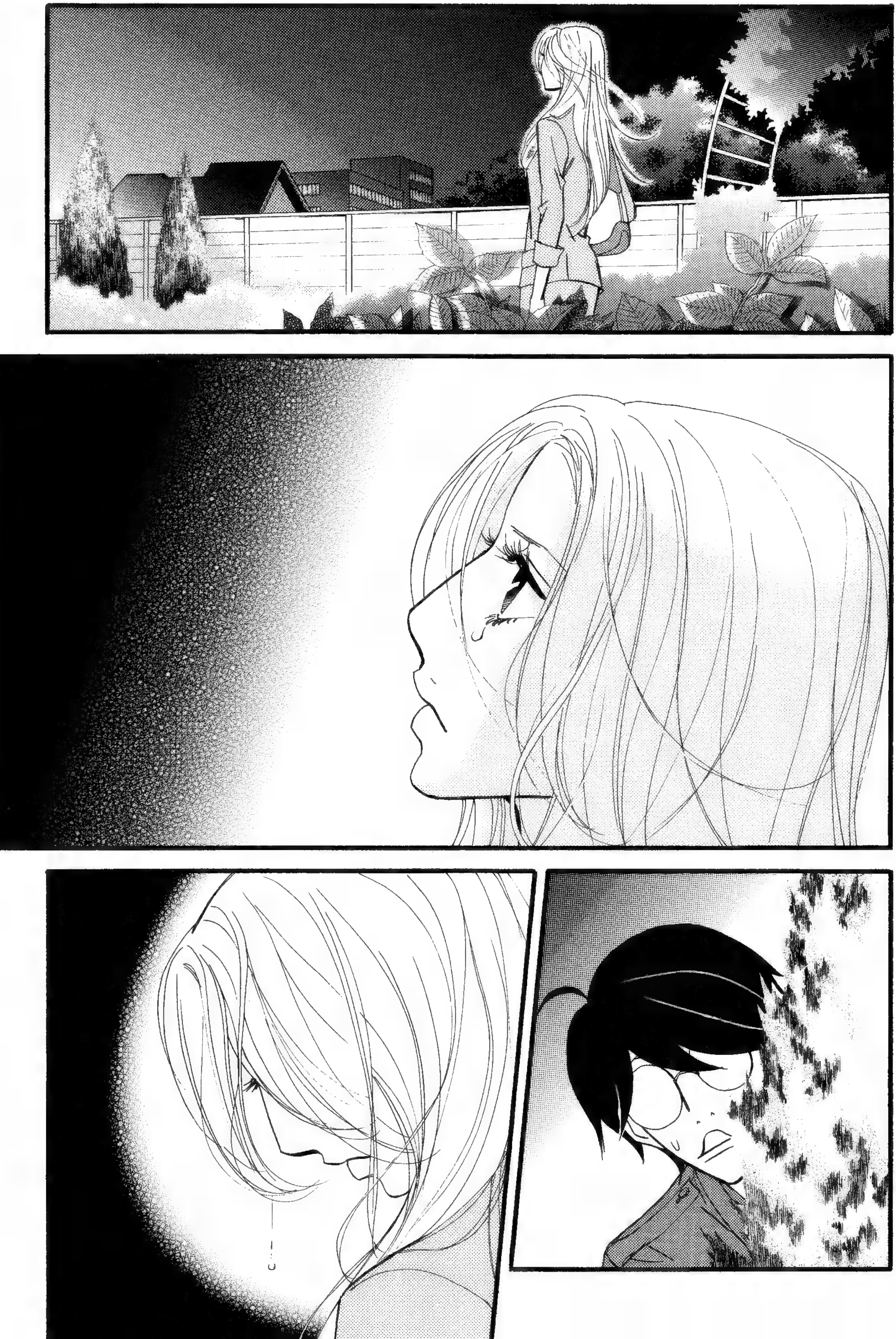
*KIN-CHAN IS A JAPANESE COMEDIAN WHO HOSTS A LOT OF VARIETY SHOWS.

MAYBE IT'S NONE OF MY BUSINESS, BUT...
...HOW COULD IWAYA-SAN...
SHE MUST BE INVOLVED IN SOMETHING BAD.
WHAT? YOU'RE THINKING TOO MUCH.
IT WAS PROBABLY JUST HER LITTLE BROTHER.
NO, SHE DOESN'T HAVE A YOUNGER BROTHER.
SHE HAS ONE BIG SISTER AND ONE LITTLE SISTER, AND HER BIG SISTER HAS GREAT TITS.
I'M NOT EVEN GOING TO ASK HOW YOU KNOW THAT.
IF YOU ASK ME, I THINK IT'S AN AFFAIR.
IWAYA-SAN IS NOT THAT KIND OF PERSON!!
I DUNNO...MAYBE IT WAS HER PET OR SOMETHING.
PET?!
THEY WERE TALKING ABOUT IT ON TV THE OTHER DAY. I COULDN'T UNDERSTAND THAT WELL, BUT...
...APPARENTLY IT'S ALL THE RAGE THESE DAYS FOR WORKING WOMEN TO KEEP YOUNG MEN AS PETS.
ALL BECAUSE OF SOME MANGA OR SOMETHING.

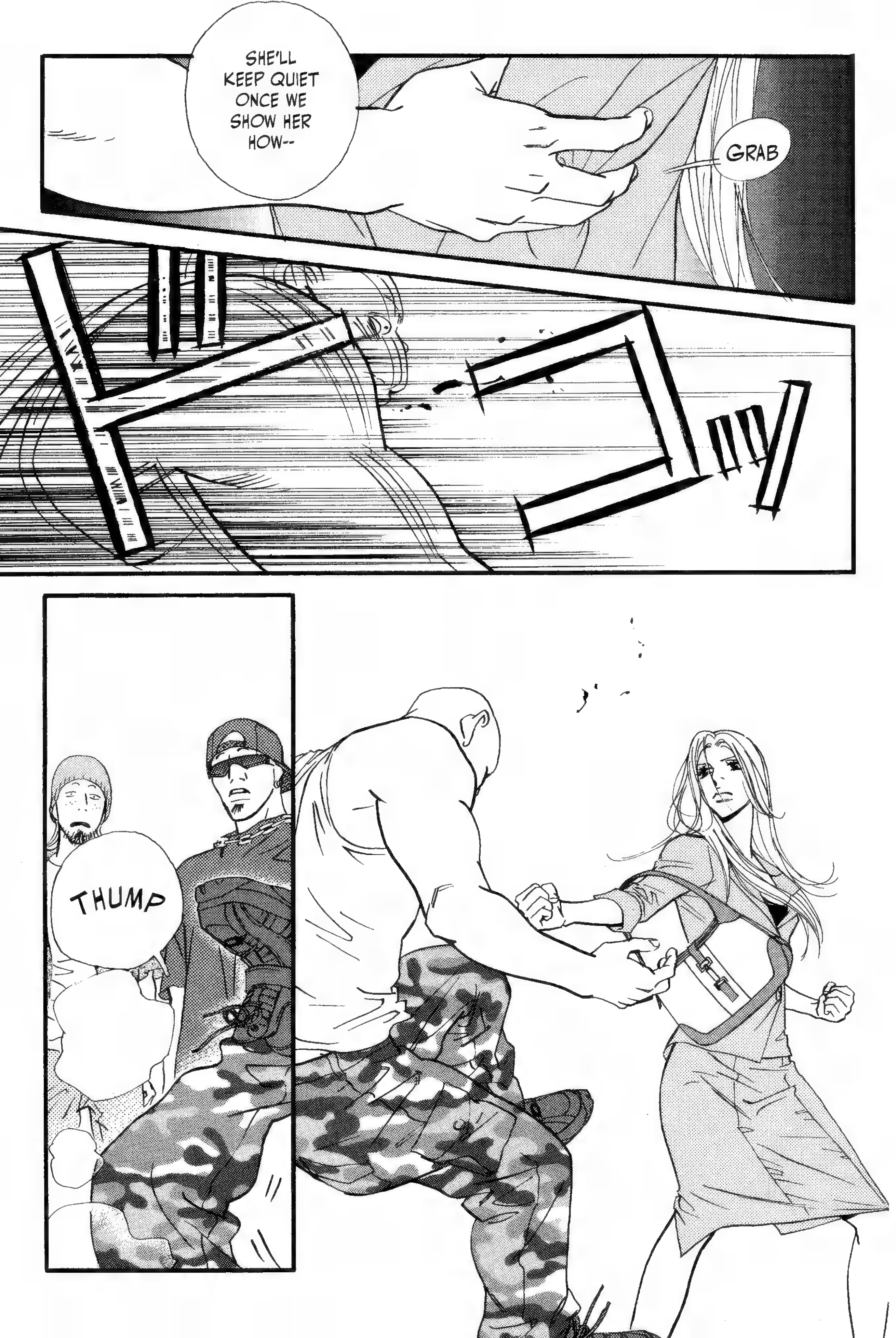
*SHE'S READING CLASSIC *MOOMIN* COMICS, CREATED BY FINNISH AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR TOVE JANSSON.

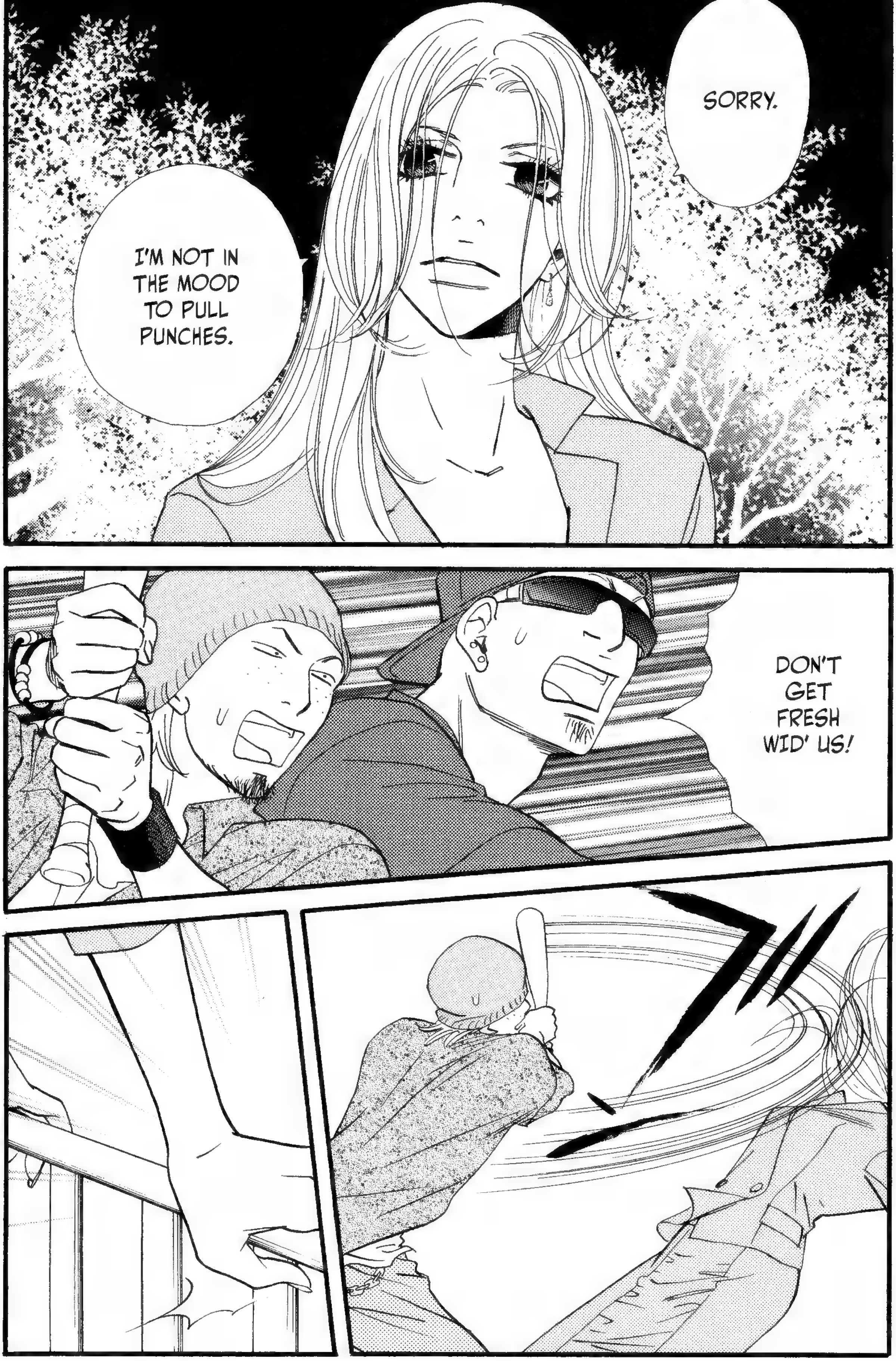
THEY SAID I WAS OVERTHINKING IT, BUT I'M WORRIED!
I WON'T LET THAT FILTHY YOUTH TOUCH YOU AGAIN, IWAYA-SAN! MARK MY WORDS!
NOT STALKING.
PROTECTING.
A STALKER?
GROSS!
HUH...

STRANGE... THAT ROAD'S NOT ON HER WAY HOME.
MAP
DID THAT YOUTH...MAKE HER COME THIS WAY?
HOW VILE!
HE'S PROBABLY BLACKMAILING HER!
IMAGINATION
SHALL I MAKE YOUR FATHER'S EMBEZZLEMENT PUBLIC?
PLEASE... STOP!
A ROSE GARDEN?

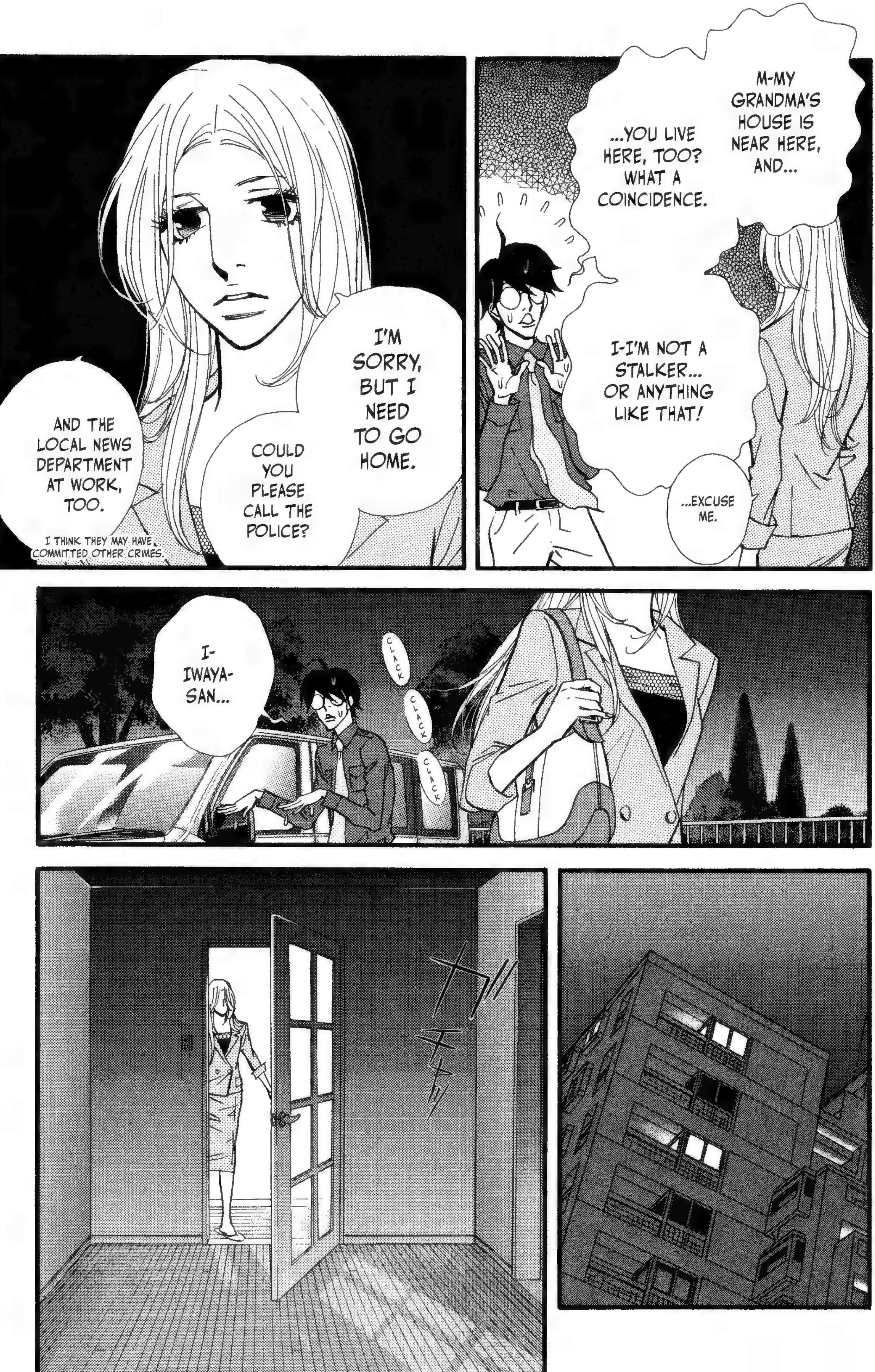


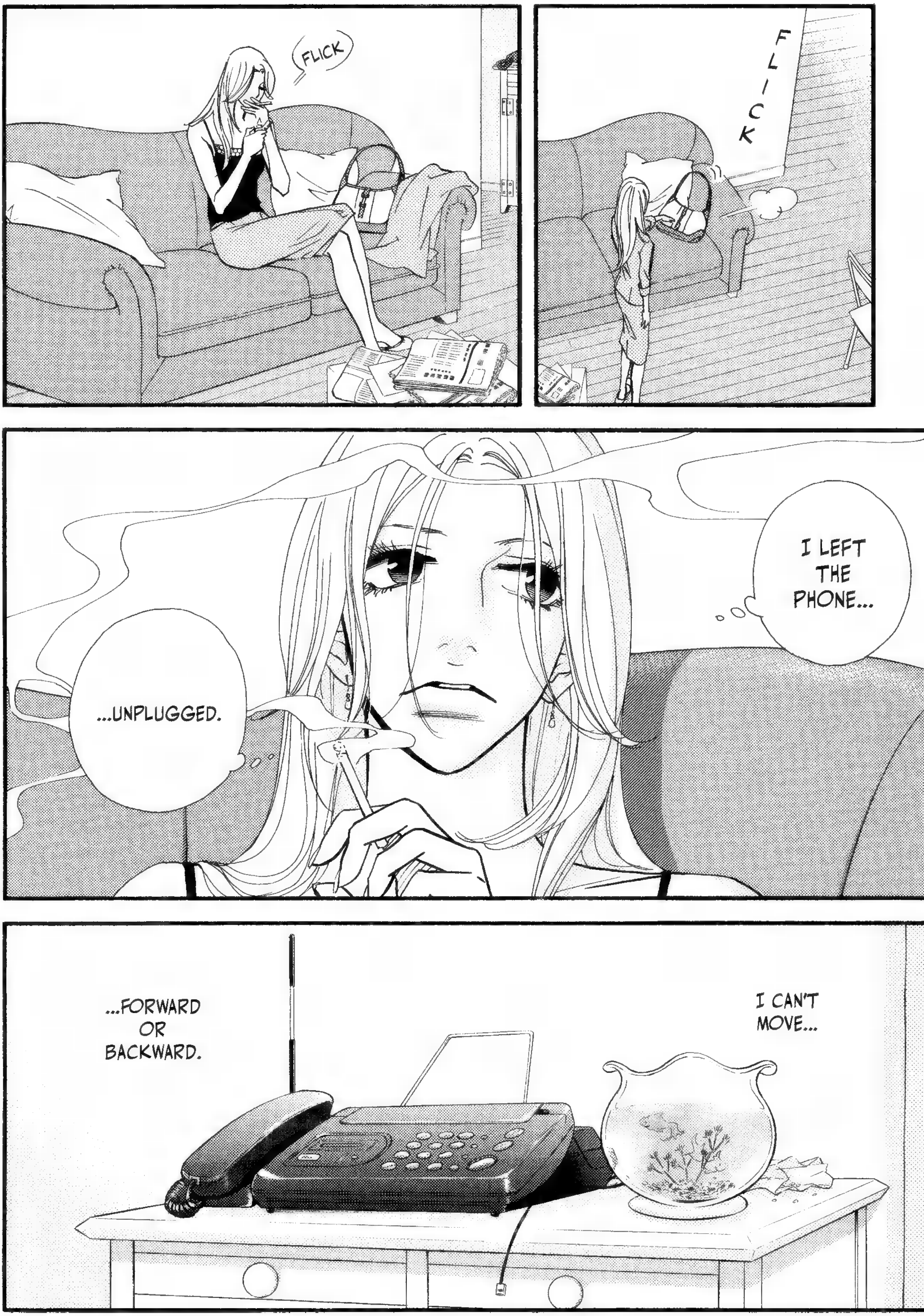
*PARURU IS A TYPE OF JAPANESE SAVINGS ACCOUNT.


SHE'LL KEEP QUIET ONCE WE SHOW HER HOW--
GRAB
THUMP


SORRY.
I'M NOT IN THE MOOD TO PULL PUNCHES.
DON'T GET FRESH WID' US!

A-A-A-A-ARE YOU OKAY?!
SURE. THEY'RE STILL BREATHING.
N-NO--YOU, IWAYA-SAN!
SUKENARI-SAN...WHY ARE YOU HERE?
HUH?!
UM, NO, THAT IS...


I'M SORRY, BUT I NEED TO GO HOME.
COULD YOU PLEASE CALL THE POLICE?
AND THE LOCAL NEWS DEPARTMENT AT WORK, TOO.
I THINK THEY MAY HAVE COMMITTED OTHER CRIMES.
...YOU LIVE HERE, TOO? WHAT A COINCIDENCE.
M-MY GRANDMA'S HOUSE IS NEAR HERE, AND...
I-I'M NOT A STALKER... OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT!
...EXCUSE ME.
I- IWAYA-SAN...
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK


FLICK
FLICK
I LEFT THE PHONE...
...UNPLUGGED.
I CAN'T MOVE...
...FORWARD OR BACKWARD.

I WISH EVERYTHING WOULD JUST DISAPPEAR.
HEY, DID YOU NOTICE IWAYA-SAN'S...
HER SUIT?
YUP. THIRD DAY IN A ROW!
I MEAN, SHE'S CHANGING HER CAMISOLE UNDER IT, BUT...
UNDER TAKER

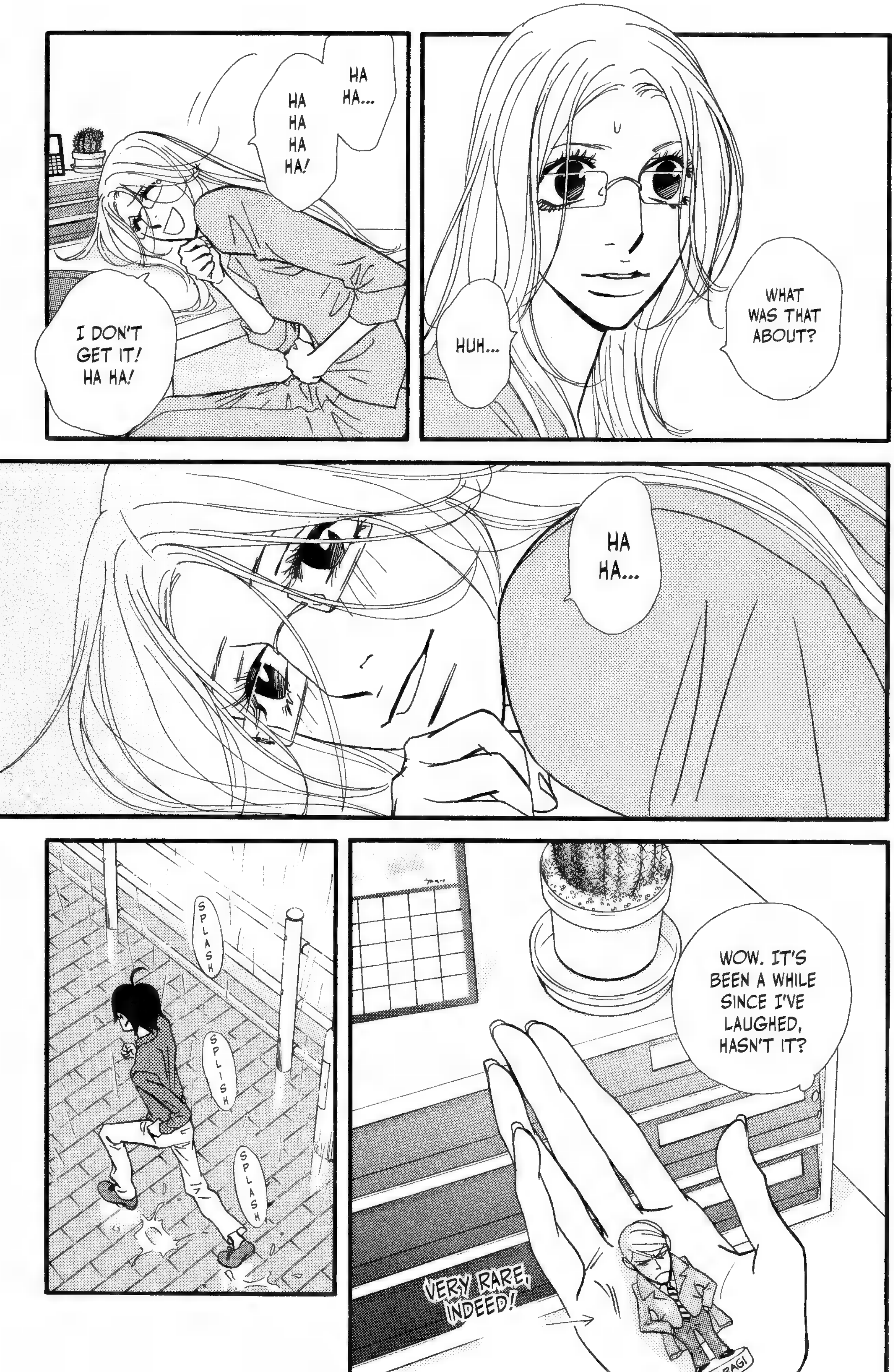
HER VICTIM'S BLOOD
...ISN'T IT KIND OF DIRTY?
YEAH...ISN'T THAT A BLOODSTAIN?
SHE'S EVEN GOT GLASSES ON. WHEN I ASKED HER IF SHE WAS HAVING PROBLEMS WITH HER CONTACTS...
"NOT REALLY. IT WAS JUST A PAIN IN THE ASS."
...THAT'S WHAT SHE SAID!
HA HA! SOUNDS JUST LIKE HER!
SHE'S IN A SORRY STATE.
AND I THINK SHE'S STARTED TALKING TO HERSELF!
VALVE
*SMOKING ROOM
IWAYA-SAN...
I UNDERSTAND NOW.
YOU ARE...
...NOT OF THIS EARTH!
SPLORT
ADRENALINE

HAVING COMPLETED HER SECRET MISSION ON EARTH, IWAYA'S RETURN TO HER HOME WORLD DRAWS NEAR.
TORN BETWEEN SORROW AT THE THOUGHT OF LEAVING EARTH AND MEMORIES OF HER DEAR HOME WORLD, HER HEART IS DIVIDED...
MOMO
MY LADY SUE MI LEI, LET US RETURN HOME.
I KNOW I MUST, YURIASU. AND YET...
JUST MADE THAT NAME UP!
THIS HAS TO BE IT!
CAN WE CHANGE YOUR OFFICIAL TITLE TO SPACE CADET?
I'M TELLING YOU! THAT YOUTH CAME TO TAKE HER BACK HOME.
SEE? SHE'S TRANSMITTING A MESSAGE TO HER COMRADES SOMEHOW.
NO, SHE'S TALKING TO HERSELF.
THOUGH I SUPPOSE THINKING DOES GENERATE SOME SORT OF ELECTRICAL WAVE...
MUMBLE MUMBLE
I HAVE TO DO MY LAUNDRY
OH, SCULLY...WHY WON'T YOU BELIEVE?
DON'T DRAG ME INTO THIS!!
AND DON'T CALL ME SCULLY!
HOW ABOUT YOU, SUKENARI? WHY ARE YOU IN SUCH DENIAL THAT YOU HAVE TO MAKE UP THIS WEIRD STUFF?
CAN'T YOU JUST ACCEPT THE FACT THAT IWAYA WAS KISSING A YOUNG GUY WHO WASN'T HER BOYFRIEND?
EEK! DO NOT SPEAK OF SUCH VULGAR THINGS!!

IWAYA-SAN IS PERFECT!!
HER LIFE, LIKE THE SCENERY ON A MAJESTIC SCROLL, IS NOT FIT FOR SUCH FILTH!!
DOES THIS MEAN YOU WON'T RESPECT IWAYA-SAN IF SHE TURNS OUT NOT TO BE PERFECT?
THAT MUST BE INCONVENIENT FROM HER POINT OF VIEW.
ME, I WOULDN'T WANT A PERFECT BOSS IN THE FIRST PLACE.

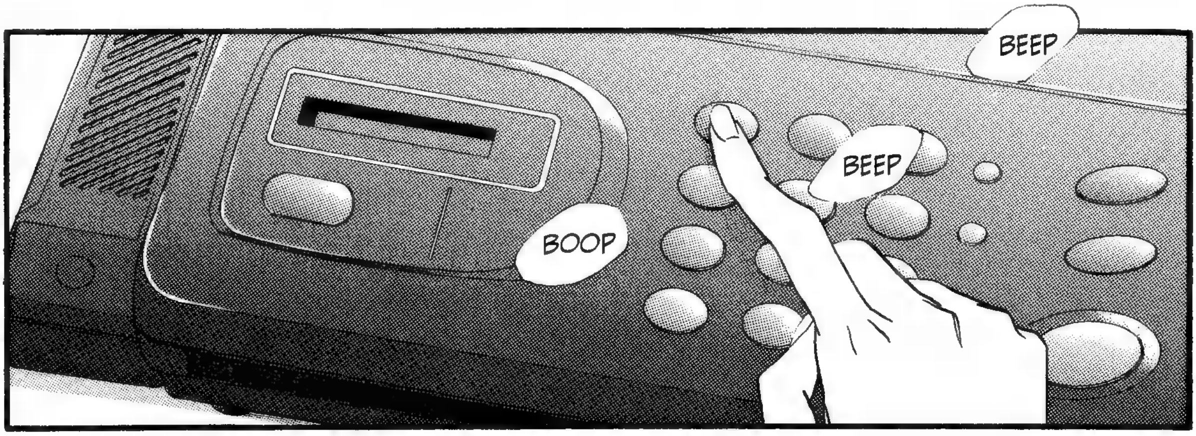
DRIP
DROP
IWAYA-SAN.
WHAT IS IT?
UMM...
I...NO, WE... DON'T CARE ABOUT YOUR TRUE IDENTITY!
...IDENTITY?
I PROMISE NOT TO TALK, EVEN IF THE FBI COMES!
UH... THANK YOU...?

BUT PLEASE, DON'T SUFFER ALONE.
WE'LL HELP YOU ANY TIME YOU NEED IT!
THIS IS VERY RARE.
JUST...PLEASE... DON'T FORGET US WHEN YOU GO BACK HOME TO SPACE!!
WHA--?!
SPACE?!

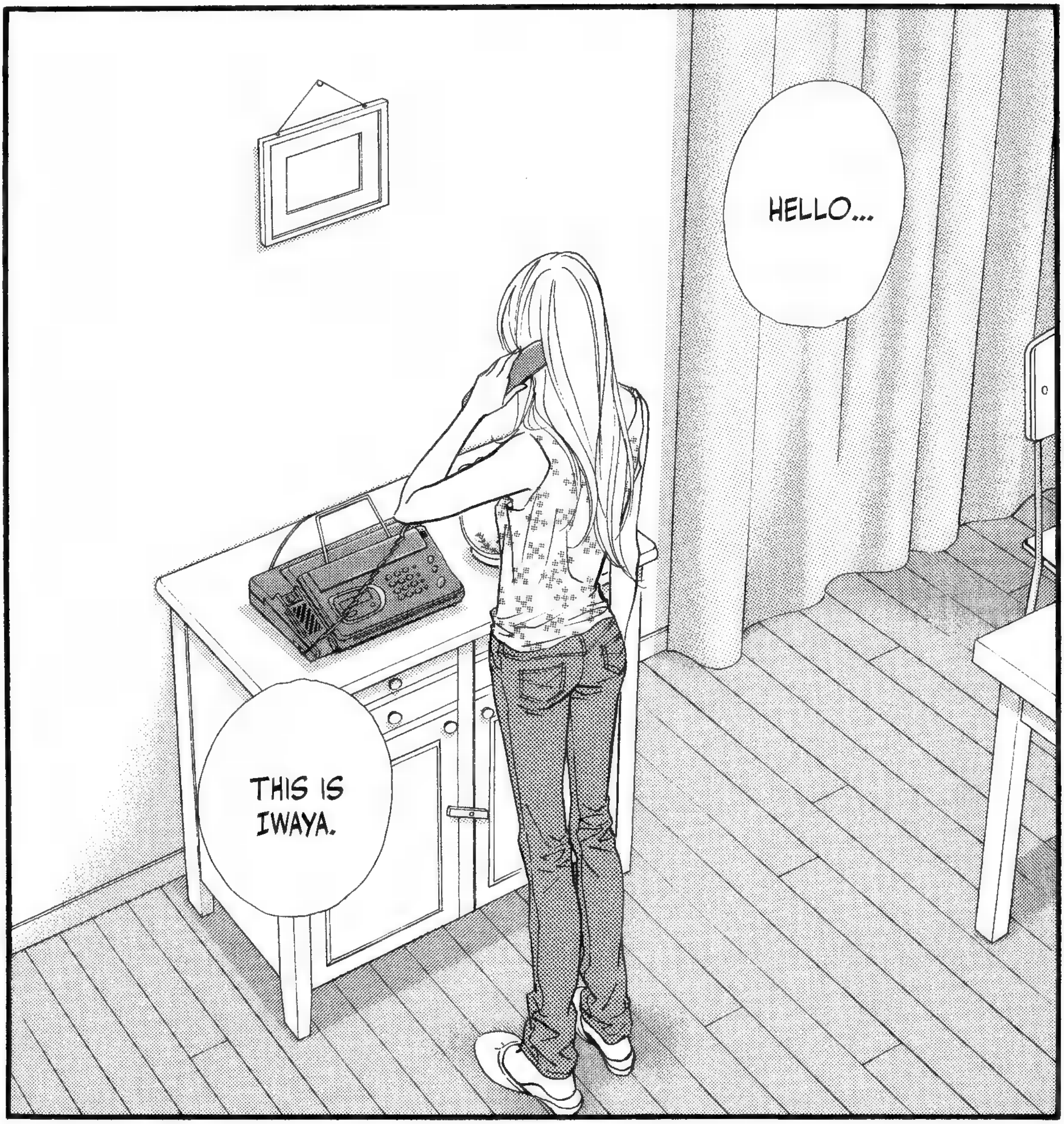

HUH...
WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT?
HA HA...
HA HA HA HA!
I DON'T GET IT! HA HA!
HA HA...
WOW. IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE LAUGHED, HASN'T IT?
VERY RARE, INDEED!
SPLASH
SPLISH
SPLASH

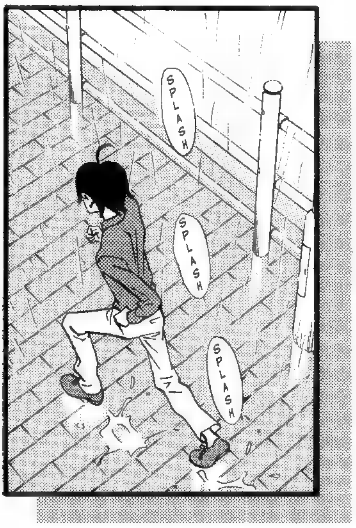
DID I DO THE RIGHT THING?
I SUPPOSE I COULD HAVE BEEN MORE CONSIDERATE ...
AH!
SLIP
OHH... I'M SO USELESS...

WHAT?
WH-
ARE YOU OKAY?
GRAB MY HAND. ♡
USE THIS HANDKERCHIEF! ♡
きゅん…
CLICK
HOOO

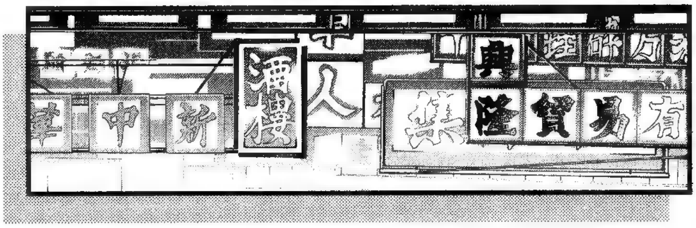


I HAVE TO ESCAPE.




SPLASH
SPLASH
SPLASH

RULE 69: LAST DANCE


華中新
酒樓
人
興
隆貿易有

HONG KONG
I'M ALWAYS NERVOUS WHEN I WAIT FOR HIM HERE.
AN UNFAMILIAR PLACE, WITH AN UNFAMILIAR LANGUAGE...
EVERYTHING FEELS SO STRANGE AND UNCERTAIN.
TAXI

I GUESS SHE'S NOT HERE AFTER ALL.
MAYBE I SHOULD LOOK IN THE CAFES?
CLACK
I'M THREE HOURS LATE. NO ONE WOULD WAIT THAT LONG, WOULD THEY?
BUT IT DIDN'T LOOK LIKE SHE'D BEEN TO THE APARTMENT...
...AND SHE HASN'T CALLED MY OFFICE... SO...
CLACK
CLACK
SENPAI!
IWAYA-SAN!
I'M SO SORRY! WERE YOU WAITING THIS WHOLE TIME?!
I WAS AT THE HOSPITAL, SO I HAD TO TURN MY CELL PHONE OFF...

HOSPITAL?
UH, NO! M-MY CAT...
THEY FOUND MY CAT, AND SHE WAS HURT REALLY BAD...
...SO I WENT TO THE VET...
YES. I HAD THE VET SEE HER.
BUT IT WAS A SERIOUS INJURY, SO... I HAD TO STAY WITH HER...
AFTER ALL, I AM HER M-MASTER.
THERE'S A LOT--
IWAYA-SAN?

TWIST
THREE DAYS AGO
URGH...
THAT DREAM AGAIN...
I'VE HAD A HEADACHE ALL MORNING.
I THINK I PUT ASPIRIN IN HERE...
MORNING.
GOOD MORNING.

DARLING, DOES YOUR HEAD HURT?
HMM? YEAH.
YOU SHOULD HAVE SAID SOMETHING EARLIER! MASSAGE IS MY SPECIALTY.
IS IT HERE? HOW ABOUT HERE?
TAKE THIS. AND THAT.
H-
HEY! THAT'S ENOUGH! YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THAT!
DON'T WORRY, IT'S JUST EYESTRAIN.
ALTHOUGH MY SHOULDERS HAVE BEEN STIFF LATELY, TOO.
REALLY?
WELL, AT LEAST LET ME GIVE YOU SOMETHING GOOD.
HUMPH.
THIS REALLY WORKS IF YOU RUB IT INTO YOUR TEMPLES.
THEY SAY KELLY CHANG USES IT A LOT.
HMM...
YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME, DO YOU?
BUT IT REALLY WORKS!
WHAT A BAD ATTITUDE.

*THE KANJI FOR THIS WORD READS "GUYS' TOWN."

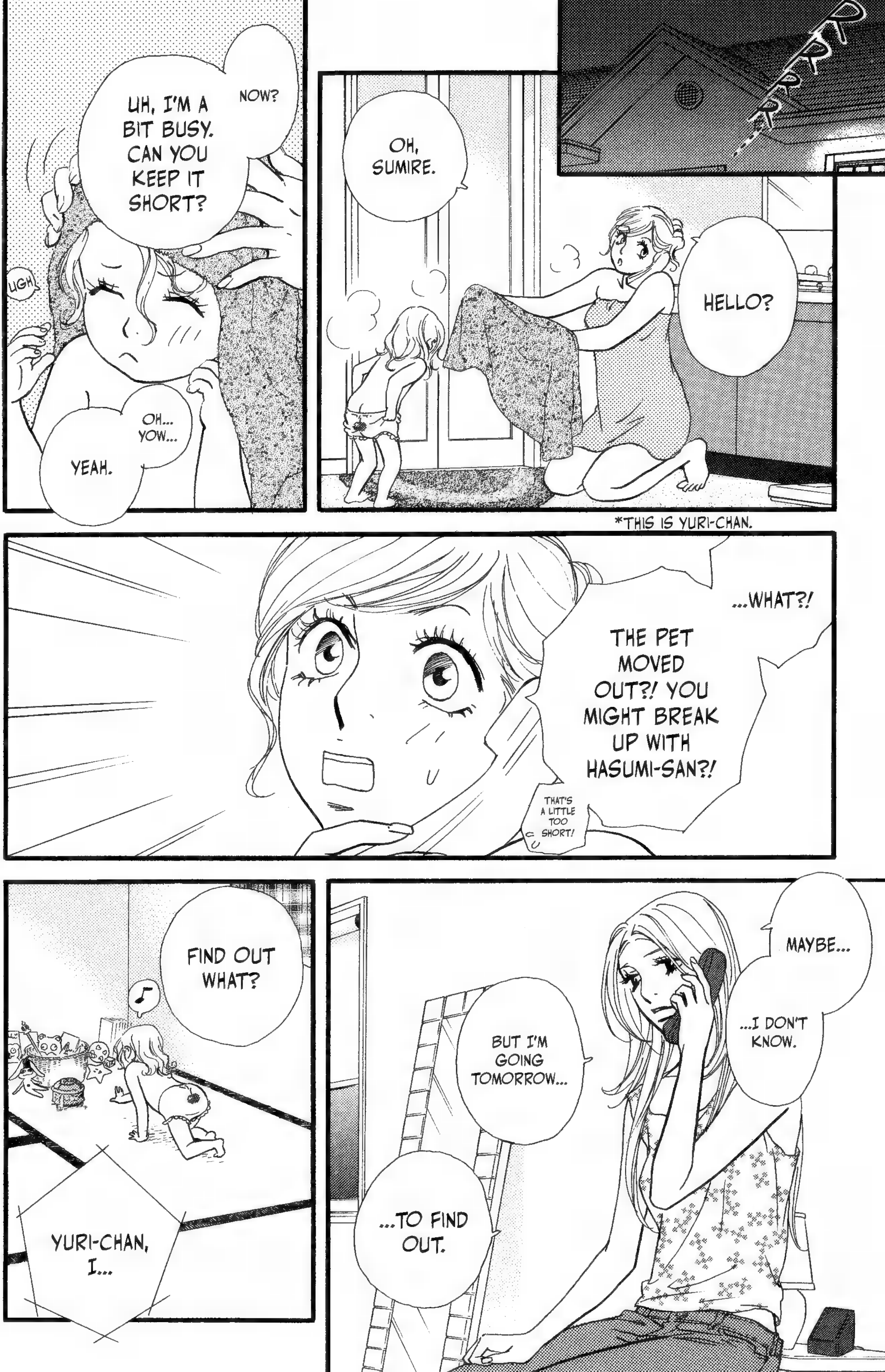
BUT SHE WAS ACTING A BIT STRANGE, WASN'T SHE?
HER COLOR WASN'T GOOD EITHER. IT WAS LIKE SHE'D BEEN SICK OR SOMETHING.
YOU SHOULD GO TO THE BAR AND ASK FOR HER.
WHAT? SHE'S STILL WORKING?
SHE WAS THERE WHEN WE WENT LAST WEEK, RIGHT, SHEI-KUN?
WE'RE REGULARS.
HMM?
Bottom Up
BOTTOM
香港に誕生した・最高級・トップレス・ク

HUH?
RUB RUB
Bottom Up
YOU WORK WITH A GIRL CALLED "MINMEI," DON'T YOU?
MINMEI?
CUSTOMER-SAN, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
YOU'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE, HAVEN'T YOU?
UH...
OOH! YOU MEAN SHIORI.
SHE DOESN'T COME HERE ANYMORE.
WHAT? REALLY?
YEAH, SHE QUIT LAST WEEK. I DON'T KNOW WHERE SHE IS NOW.

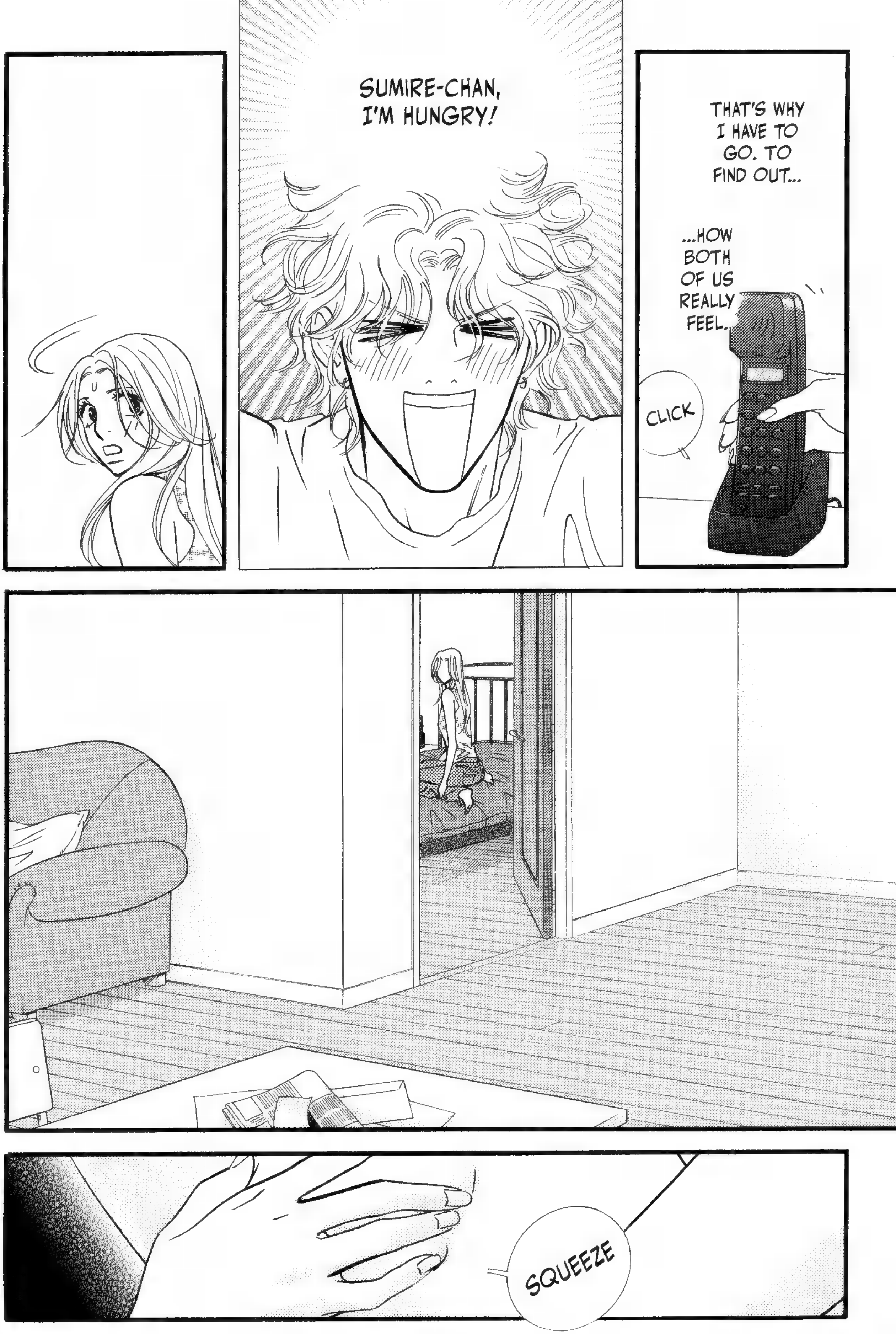
IS THERE SOMEONE WHO MIGHT KNOW?
HMM. I'D HAVE TO ASK.
O-OKAY. IF YOU FIND OUT, COULD YOU PLEASE CONTACT ME HERE?
OH! ARE YOU SHIORI'S PRINCE CHARMING?
SHIORI SAID...
...HER PRINCE CHARMING LIVED IN THIS CITY.
WHAT?
SHE SAID HER LIFE CHANGED AFTER MEETING HIM...
...BUT SHE DOESN'T HATE HIM FOR IT.
...

SHE SAID HER LIFE CHANGED AFTER MEETING HIM...
DARLING. ♡
THESE...HAVE BEEN THE HAPPIEST DAYS OF MY LIFE.
R-I-I-I-N-G
SMALL
H-HELLO?
HELLO...
THIS IS IWAYA.

UH... IWAYA-SAN.
WH-WHAT'S UP?
UMM...
WOULD IT BE ALL RIGHT IF I CAME OVER TOMORROW?
I THINK IT'D BE AN EVENING FLIGHT.
BADUM
BADUM
UH...YEAH! SURE, SURE.
BADUM
GREAT. I'LL PICK YOU UP AT THE AIRPORT.
WHEN YOU KNOW WHAT TIME YOU'LL GET HERE... YEAH.
YEAH, WOULD YOU DO THAT FOR ME? THANKS.
CLICK
...


RRRRR...
HELLO?
OH, SUMIRE.
NOW?
UH, I'M A BIT BUSY. CAN YOU KEEP IT SHORT?
UGH
OH... YOW...
YEAH.
*THIS IS YURI-CHAN.
...WHAT?!
THE PET MOVED OUT?! YOU MIGHT BREAK UP WITH HASUMI-SAN?!
THAT'S A LITTLE TOO SHORT!
MAYBE...
...I DON'T KNOW.
BUT I'M GOING TOMORROW...
...TO FIND OUT.
FIND OUT WHAT?
YURI-CHAN, I...

...DIDN'T REALIZE IT BEFORE, BUT MOMO...
...IS WAY MORE IMPORTANT TO ME THAN I THOUGHT.
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO PUT THIS, BUT... I THINK...I MIGHT DIE...
...IF HE'S NOT HERE.
AND I THINK... MAYBE HASUMI-SENPAI...
...HAS... SOMEONE LIKE THAT, TOO.
WHAT?!
IF IT'S TRUE...IF HE REALLY IS JUST LIKE ME...
...THEN I'LL KNOW...
...IT'S OVER.


THAT'S WHY I HAVE TO GO. TO FIND OUT...
...HOW BOTH OF US REALLY FEEL.
CLICK
SUMIRE-CHAN, I'M HUNGRY!
SQUEEZE

IT'S ALL RIGHT...
I'LL BE ALL RIGHT.
I'LL BE ALL RIGHT.
I'LL BE ALL RIGHT.
WELL, WELL.
EVEN THEIR BREAKUP IS GOING TO BE DULL.
IF YOU ASK ME, THOSE TWO...
...ARE JUST LIKE THIS.

RIIIING
D
DELD
WHOA.
PHONE. PHONE!
D
DELD
HELLO?
CUSTOMER-SAN? IT'S ME.
I FOUND OUT WHERE SHIORI IS.
BUT THEY SELL HARD DRUGS THERE. IT'S DANGEROUS FOR SOMEONE LIKE YOU, CUSTOMER-SAN.
I CAN'T GET IN TOUCH WITH SHIORI. SO I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON.
WHAT...?

第九里
I HAVE TO MEET IWAYA-SAN AT FIVE.
I'LL JUST PEEK IN QUICKLY TO SEE HOW SHE IS.
HERE, HUH?
I HEAR A TV OR SOMETHING...
KNOCK KNOCK
...FUKU SHIMA-SAN?
ARE YOU THERE?
KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK
IT'S ME...
CLICK

SORRY TO HAVE TRACKED YOU DOWN LIKE THIS, BUT...
...THERE'S SOMETHING... I HAVE TO ASK YOU.
YOU...
...SAID NOTHING WENT ON BETWEEN US.
BUT IS THAT REALLY TRUE?
THE DREAMS I'VE HAD LATELY... ABOUT US...
...HAVE BEEN STRANGELY REAL.
MAYBE THEY AREN'T JUST DREAMS.
CRAAAAAA AAAAASH
FUKUSHIMA-SAN?!
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
FUKUSHIMA! WHAT'S GOING ON?!

FUKUSHIMA-SAN!
RATTLE RATTLE RATTLE

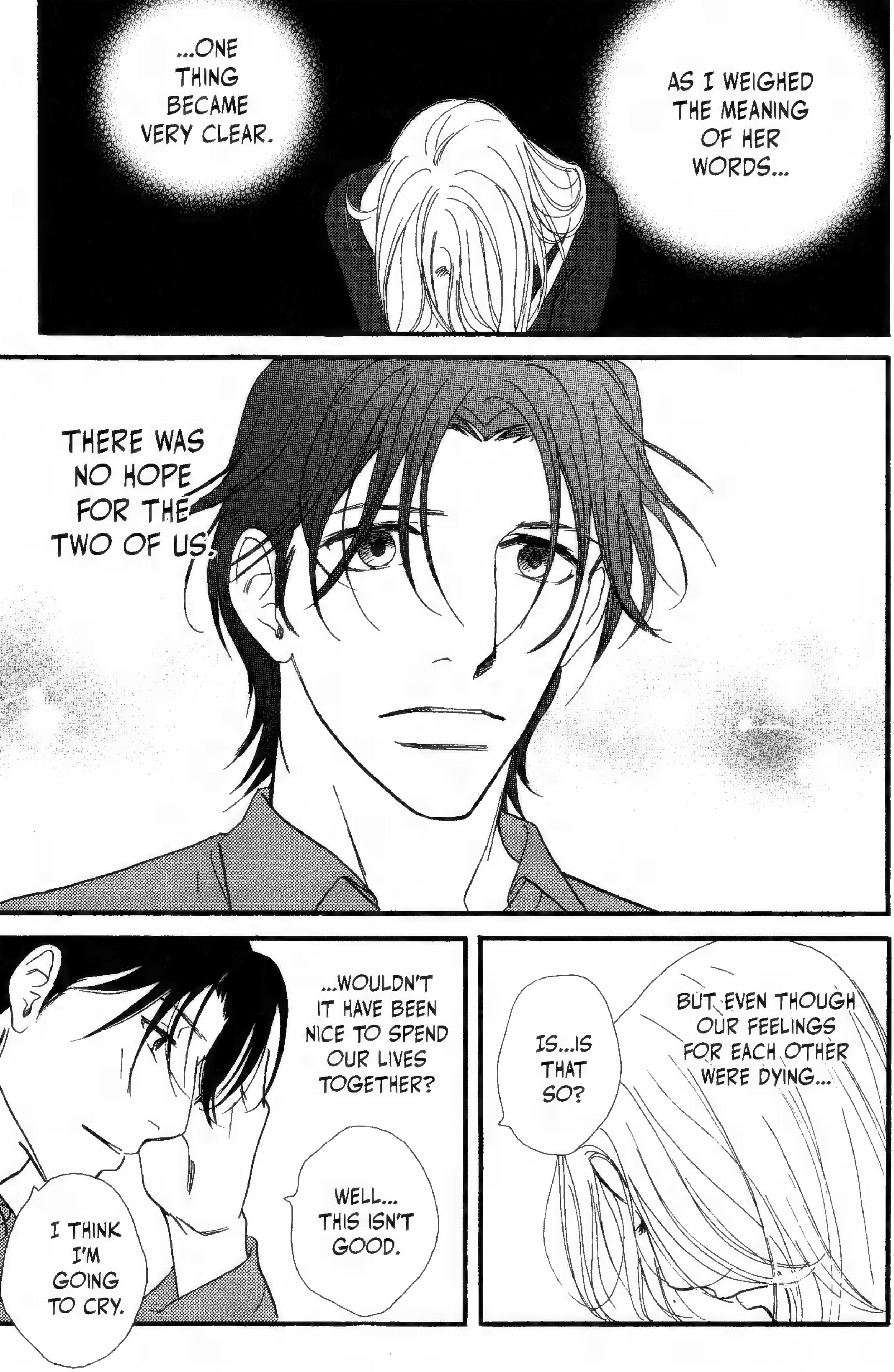
ARE YOU HER HUSBAND?
WHA...UH...
EXCUSE ME. WHAT IS HER CONDITION?
IT'LL BE MORE OF A HASSLE TO DENY IT...
YES. I AM.
SHE'S IN SHOCK FROM COCAINE POISONING.
IN MOST CASES, WE CAN SAVE THEM IF THEY MAKE IT HERE WITHIN TWO HOURS OF THE ONSET OF SYMPTOMS.
BUT THE FAMILY'S COOPERATION IS ESSENTIAL FOR THE TREATMENT FOR NARCOTICS.
YOUR SUPPORT WILL BE VERY IMPORTANT, EVEN AFTER SHE RECOVERS.

PLEASE STAY BY HER SIDE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE FROM NOW ON.
...
I GUESS SHE'S NOT HERE AFTER ALL.
MAYBE I SHOULD LOOK IN THE CAFES?
SENPAI!
IWAYA-SAN!

I'M SO SORRY! WERE YOU WAITING THIS WHOLE TIME?!
I WAS AT THE HOSPITAL, SO I HAD TO TURN MY CELL PHONE OFF...
HOSPITAL?
UH, NO! M-MY CAT...
THEY FOUND MY CAT, AND SHE WAS HURT REALLY BAD...
...SO I WENT TO THE VET...
YES, I HAD THE VET SEE HER.
BUT IT WAS A SERIOUS INJURY, SO... I HAD TO STAY WITH HER...
AFTER ALL, I AM HER M-MASTER. THERE'S A LOT--

...IWAYA-SAN?
I'M SORRY.
BOW
WHA--?
SENPAI...LYING ISN'T ONE OF YOUR STRONG POINTS...
...SO PLEASE, DON'T PUSH YOURSELF ANY FURTHER.
BUT...I UNDERSTAND... HOW YOU FEEL, SENPAI.
FOR A LONG TIME, I, TOO...
...HAVE BEEN TELLING LIES.

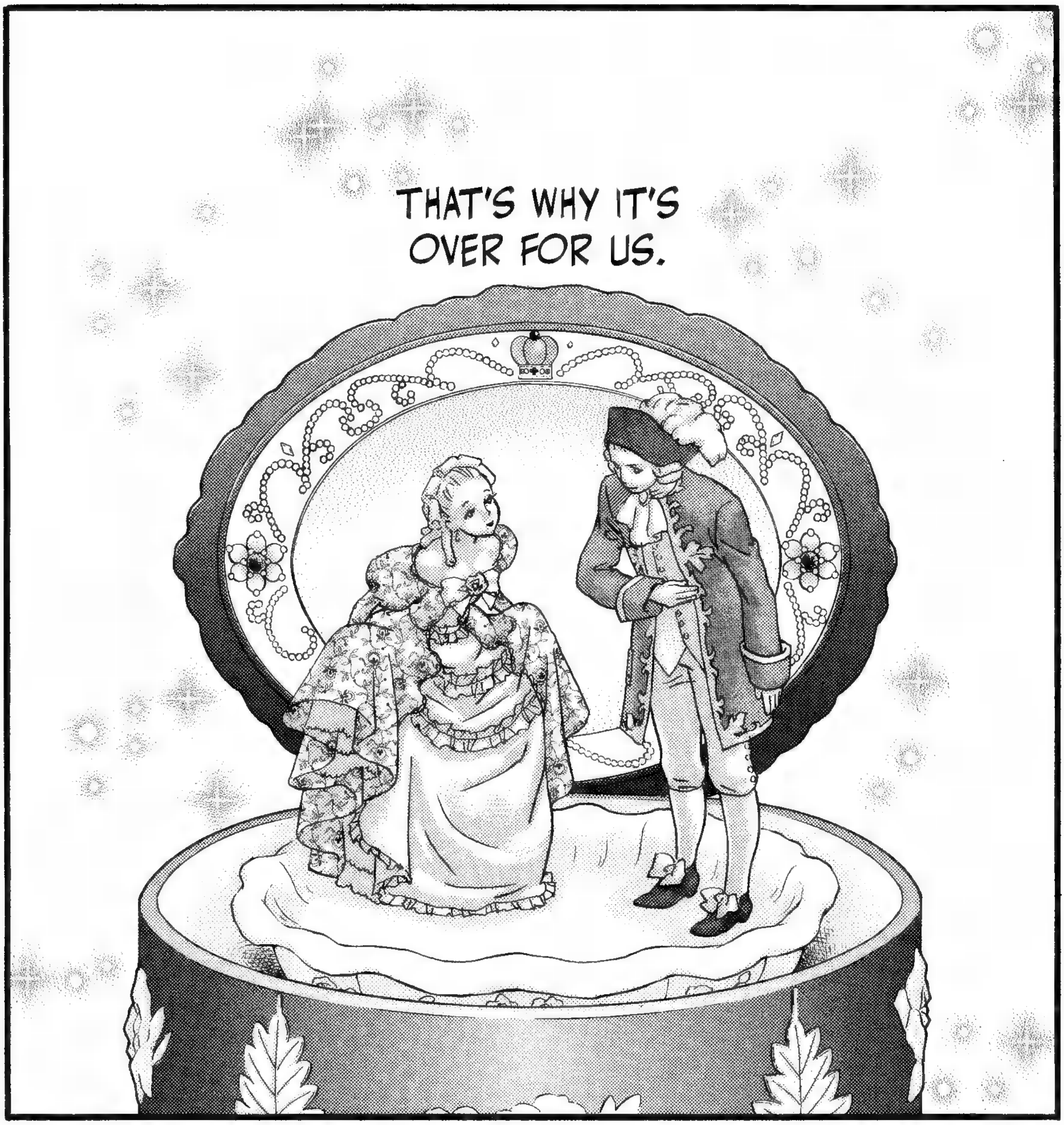
AND I DON'T WANT TO LIE EVER AGAIN.
L-LIES?
WHAT LIES?
TO SENPAI... OR MYSELF.
THERE IS SOMEONE ELSE I REALLY CARE ABOUT.
PLEASE... BREAK UP WITH ME.


AS I WEIGHED THE MEANING OF HER WORDS...
...ONE THING BECAME VERY CLEAR.
THERE WAS NO HOPE FOR THE TWO OF US.
BUT EVEN THOUGH OUR FEELINGS FOR EACH OTHER WERE DYING...
IS...IS THAT SO?
...WOULDN'T IT HAVE BEEN NICE TO SPEND OUR LIVES TOGETHER?
WELL... THIS ISN'T GOOD.
I THINK I'M GOING TO CRY.

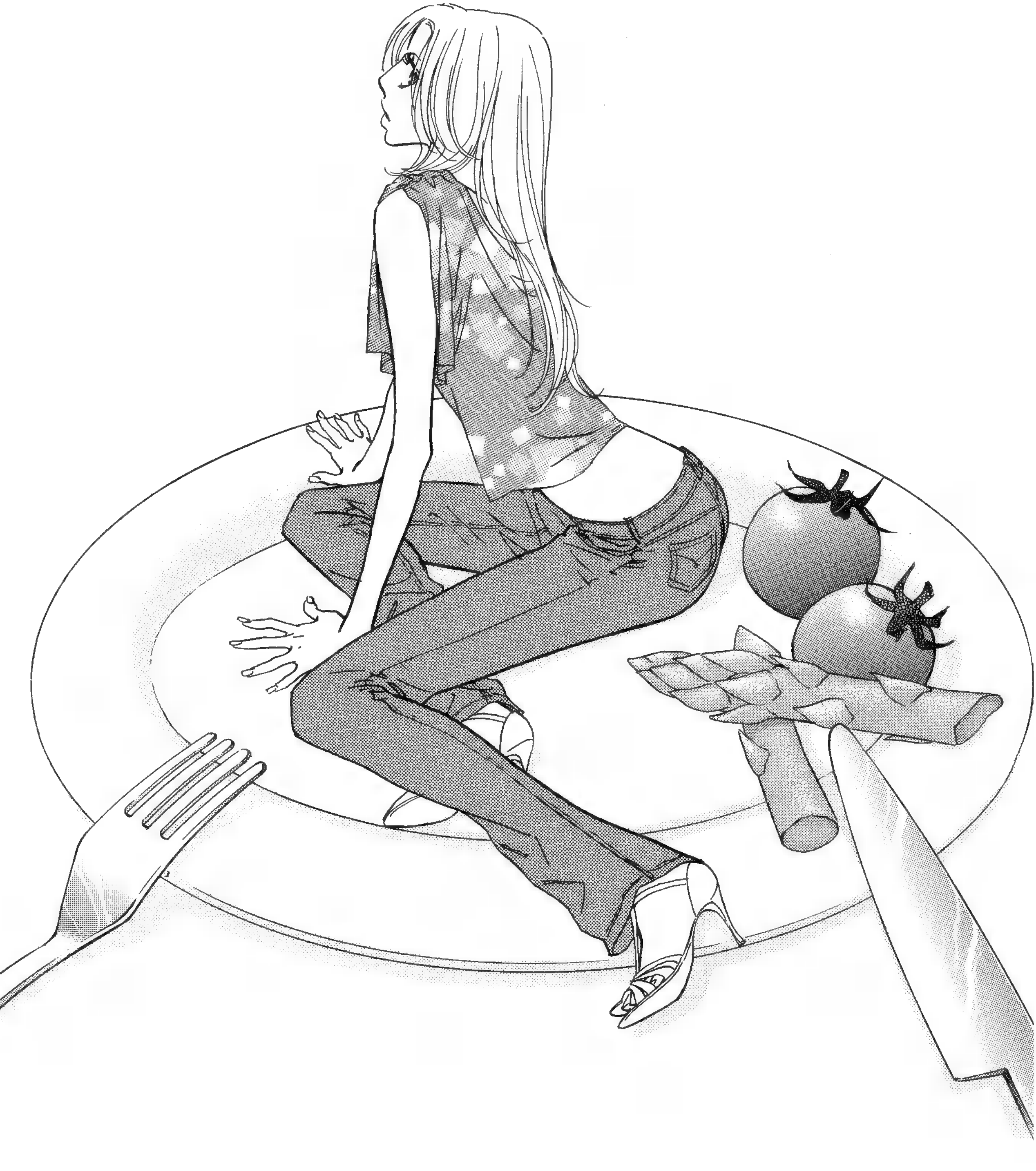
AS IF IN A DREAM... AS IF UNDER A SPELL...
IF ONLY I COULD LIVE AND DIE BY THE THOUGHT OF YOU ALONE!
I'M... SORRY...
BUT PLEASE... JUST LET ME SAY THAT...

JUST ONE LAST TIME...
...IS IT OKAY FOR ME TO CRY IN FRONT OF YOU?
I DIDN'T WANT TO BE DISLIKED.
I WANTED TO FORGIVE, NO MATTER WHAT WAS DONE TO ME.
I WANTED TO LOVE YOU UNTIL THE END.
AND THAT IS WHY ...

MAMA!
THE SONG'S OVER!


THAT'S WHY IT'S OVER FOR US.

RULE 70 : WAIT A MINUTE HERE



A TOAST--TO GOUDA-KUN AND RUMI-CHAN'S FUTURE SUCCESS IN EUROPE!
CHEERS!
海野
YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE TAKESHI SOON, HANAKO.
CAN FINALLY PRONOUNCE HER DAUGHTER'S NAME
SAY NOW: "GOOD LUCK!"
NO, NO! YOU MUST NOT CRY!
SOB SOB SOB...
SURPRISINGLY, SHE CRIES QUIETLY.
YOU KNOW, SHE'S CUTE... EXCEPT FOR HER FACE.
SNORFLE...

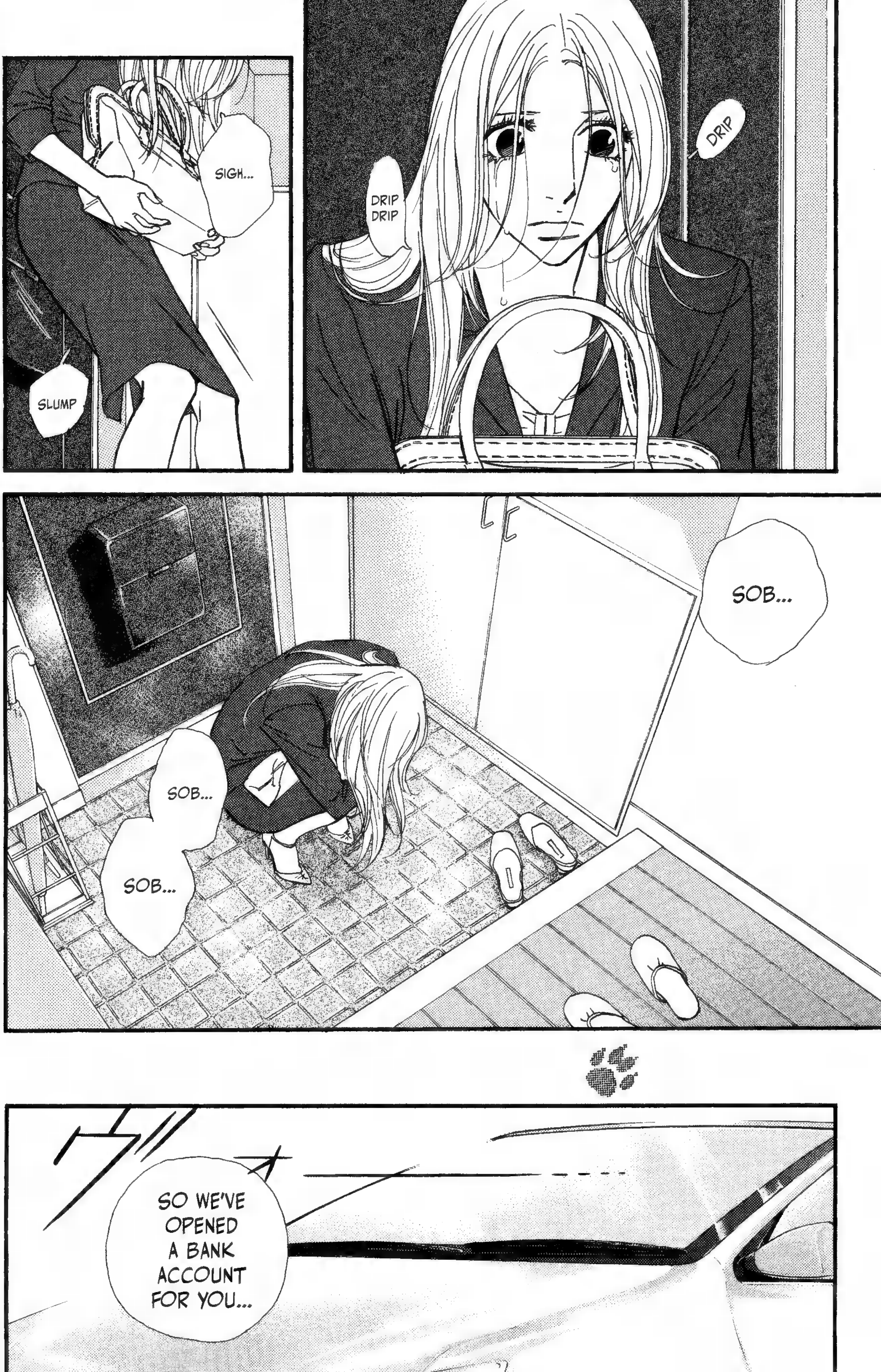
SORRY TO IMPOSE ON YOUR BIG BROTHER'S PLACE FOR THIS PARTY.
I WANTED TO INVITE EVERYONE TO MY PLACE, BUT...
...MY BIG SISTER SAID SHE COULDN'T MAKE THAT MUCH BORSCHT.
MEH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
BORSCHT?
BORSCHT?
YOU'RE LEAVING TOMORROW, RIGHT, RUMI-CHAN?
I'LL MISS YOU.
YUP!
I'D BETTER FIND A ROOMMATE SOON, OR MY MOTHER WILL WORRY.
WELL, ANTWERP AND BRUSSELS ARE JUST A STONE'S THROW FROM EACH OTHER. WHY DON'T YOU LIVE WITH TAKESHI?
OH! YOU THINK SO TOO, HIROMI-SAN?!
UNFORTUNATELY, TAKESHI REFUSED WITHOUT EVEN THINKING ABOUT IT.
HMPH!
PLEASE... DON'T SAY THINGS LIKE THAT SO CARELESSLY.
OH! SORRY!
MY BAD.

BUT... YOU SAID YOU LIKED SOMEONE, DIDN'T YOU, TAKESHI?
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO? A LONG-DISTANCE RELATIONSHIP?
OH! IT'S OVER, ISN'T IT?
AH HA HA HA!
PAT
WHY DO YOU LOOK SO HAPPY?
AND HOW CAN I SAY...
...IT HADN'T EVEN BEGUN?
WILL SHE WAIT?
WILL SHE CATCH THE BALL I THREW TO HER?
YO--!! HOW ARE YOU DOING?
OR SHOULD I SAY...'MORNIN'S! ♡♡
*TRYING TO SAY "GOOD MORNING" LIKE A TRENDY TEENAGER...AND FAILING.

WOO! I'M-A GONNA WORK HARD TODAY! ♪
OH NO! GOT SOME RED MARKS FROM THE PROOFERS. I'M SO DOWN, MAAAN!
...
G...
"MORNIN'S"...?
WELL! I'M GOING TO SEE MANAGEMENT FOR A BIT, OKAY?
AH! IF IT'S ABOUT VOTING ON THE DELIVERY TRUCKS, THEN--
NO WORRIES! I NEEDED TO TALK TO THEM ANYWAY.
Y'THINK SHE'S FINALLY CRACKED?
I DECLINE TO COMMENT.
AN AFRO, ANNND...
...NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, HASUMI...
THE PASSWORD ISSS...

WHAT, SHIGEHITO? DID YOU GET HIS MANUSCRIPT?
CRASH
TUMBLE TUMBLE
DID YOU HEAR A WEIRD SOUND JUST NOW?
LIKE WHAT?
IWAYA-SAN... YOUR KNEE'S BLEEDING.
I'M FINE. FINE! I JUST FELL DOWN THE STAIRS, THAT'S ALL. ♡
...THAT'S ALL?!
REALLY...? FUKUSHIMA?
ドサ ドサ
I'M FROM YONEZAWA, MYSELF.
OH! THAT'S CLOSE, ISN'T IT?
わた わた わた
IWAYA-KUN! IWAYA-KUN.
KODAN JOURNAL BUREAU

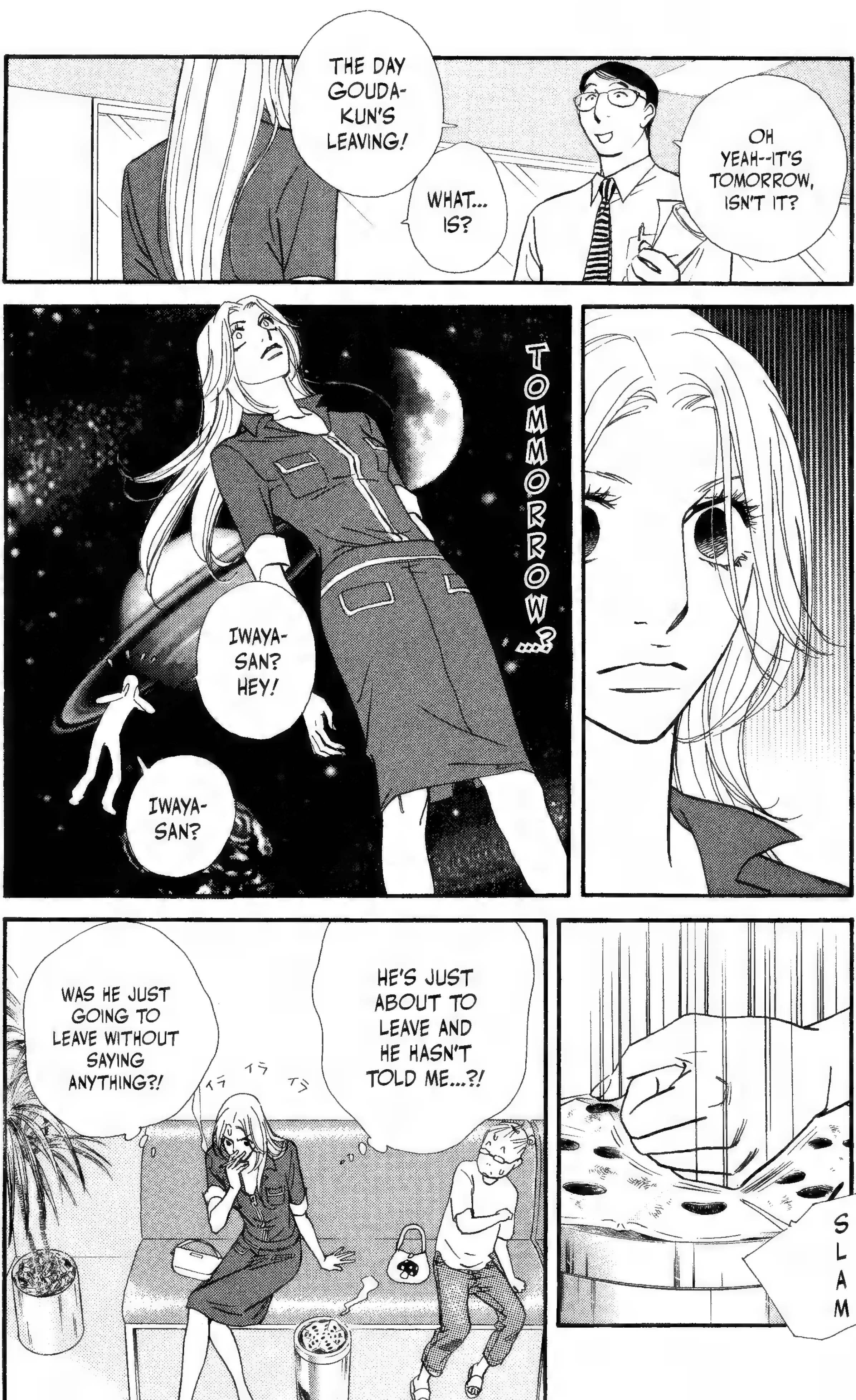
IT'S HONG KONG-STYLE DIM SUM! DELISH!
I'VE DISCOVERED THIS GREAT NEW RESTAURANT. WHY DON'T WE ALL GO THERE FOR DINNER SOON?
SURE! DEFINITELY! GREAT IDEA!
IWAYA-KUN?!
OH NO! IWAYA-KUN FAINTED!
HELP!!
...


DRIP
DRIP DRIP
SIGH...
SLUMP
SOB...
SOB...
SOB...
SO WE'VE OPENED A BANK ACCOUNT FOR YOU...

...AND SENT OFF YOUR STUFF. FINALLY FEELS LIKE YOU'RE LEAVING, HUH?
...
YEAH...
MOM AND DAD HAVE CALMED DOWN SINCE YOU CAME HOME.
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF HAVING STEW FOR DINNER TONIGHT?
SOUND OKAY?
...NAH.
SNAP
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? YOU KEEP ON OPENING AND CLOSING YOUR PHONE.
IT'S CREEPY. IF YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE A CALL, JUST MAKE A CALL.

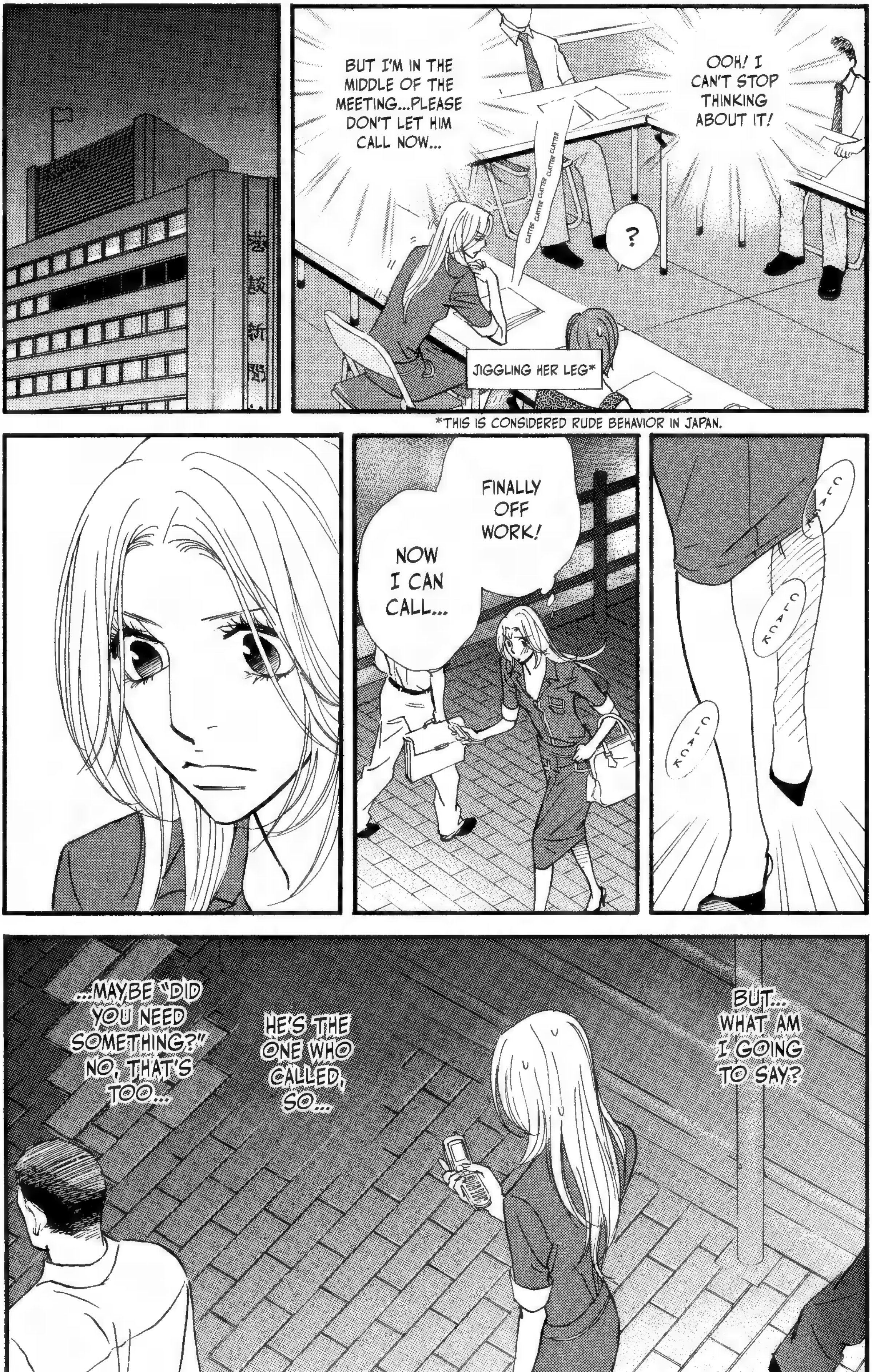
I THINK I'LL...
...WAIT.
...?
I WONDER WHAT HE'S DOING...
BELGIUM, WASN'T IT?
CLACK
CLACK
HE WILL CONTACT ME BEFORE HE LEAVES... RIGHT?
CLACK
IWAYA-SAN.

OH...FROM THE CULTURE DEPARTMENT! YOU'RE...
YES! THE CULTURE DEPARTMENT! I'M...
...OSARIZAWA-SAN.
NISHIDA-SAN
AT LEAST GET ONE SYLLABLE RIGHT.
NOT EVEN ONE...
ANYWAY, I WANTED TO THANK YOU FOR HELPING ME INTERVIEW TAKESHI GOUDA.
WHAT...?
I THOUGHT I'D SHOW YOU A COPY OF THE PRINTED ARTICLE.
LET ME SHOW YOU.
AUGUST
GOUDA TAKESHI (21)
A RISING STAR!
IT SEEMS HE'S GOING TO BELGIUM. I'M GLAD HE MADE IT!
HE'LL BE STUDYING ADVANCED CHOREOGRAPHY, BUT HE'S ALSO GOING TO AUDITION AS A DANCER.
HE'S REALLY GOT DRIVE FOR SOMEONE SO YOUNG.
HE TOLD ME THIS OFF THE RECORD, SO I DIDN'T PUBLISH IT, BUT...
...IT SEEMS THERE'S A GIRL HE WANTS TO MARRY.
HE WANTS TO GET READY FOR MARRIAGE, HE SAID.
...


OH YEAH--IT'S TOMORROW, ISN'T IT?
WHAT... IS?
THE DAY GOUDA-KUN'S LEAVING!
TOMMORROW...?
IWAYA-SAN? HEY!
IWAYA-SAN?
SLAM
HE'S JUST ABOUT TO LEAVE AND HE HASN'T TOLD ME...?!
イラ イラ イラ
WAS HE JUST GOING TO LEAVE WITHOUT SAYING ANYTHING?!

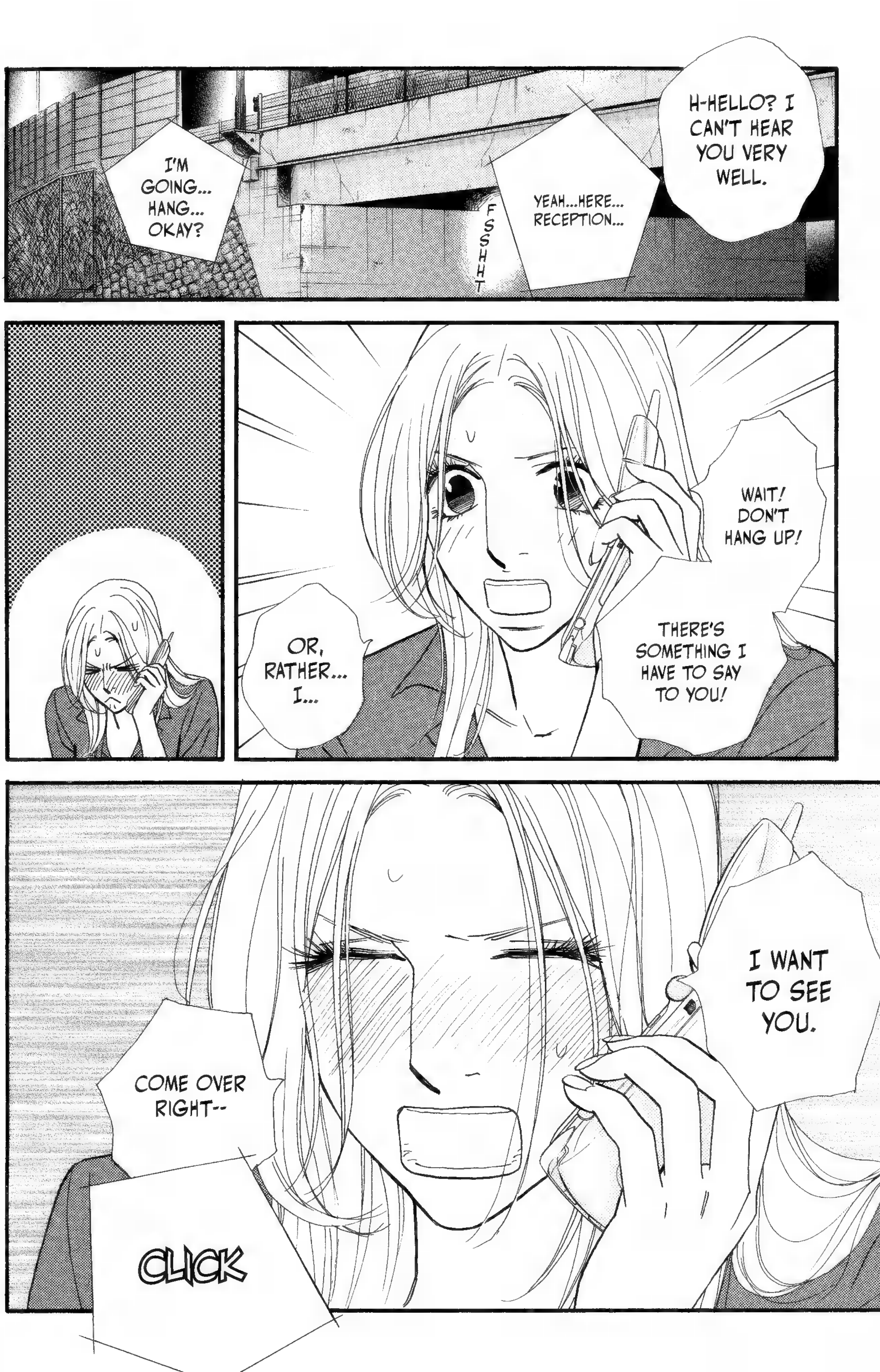
COULD IT BE...?
AND IF SO... WHAT WAS THAT PROPOSAL ALL ABOUT?
WHAT, THAT?
DID YOU SERIOUSLY BELIEVE ME?
OF COURSE IT WAS A JOKE!
YOU DO KNOW HOW OLD YOU ARE, RIGHT?
I'M GOING TO MARRY RUMI-CHAN.
MAKE SURE OUR WEDDING GIFT IS IN EUROS, OKAY?
FWOOOSH
RIIIING
RIIIING
IS THAT IWAYA-SAN'S CELL PHONE AGAIN?
I'M AMAZED AT HOW OFTEN SHE LEAVES IT HERE.

AM I...
...BEING TOO CLINGY?
OH, IWAYA.
YOU LEFT YOUR PHONE HERE, DIDN'T YOU? IT RANG JUST NOW.
HMM? WHO WAS IT?
OH--AND THE MEETING ABOUT THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION FEATURE HAS BEEN MOVED TO THE FOURTH FLOOR.
YOU SHOULD GO SOON.
BEEP
MOMO...?
THAT'S RIGHT! HE STILL HAS THAT CELL PHONE I GAVE HIM!


BUT I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF THE MEETING...PLEASE DON'T LET HIM CALL NOW...
OOH! I CAN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT IT!
CLATTER CLATTER CLATTER CLATTER
?
JIGGLING HER LEG*
*THIS IS CONSIDERED RUDE BEHAVIOR IN JAPAN.
FINALLY OFF WORK!
NOW I CAN CALL...
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
...MAYBE "DID YOU NEED SOMETHING?" NO, THAT'S TOO...
HE'S THE ONE WHO CALLED, SO...
BUT... WHAT AM I GOING TO SAY?

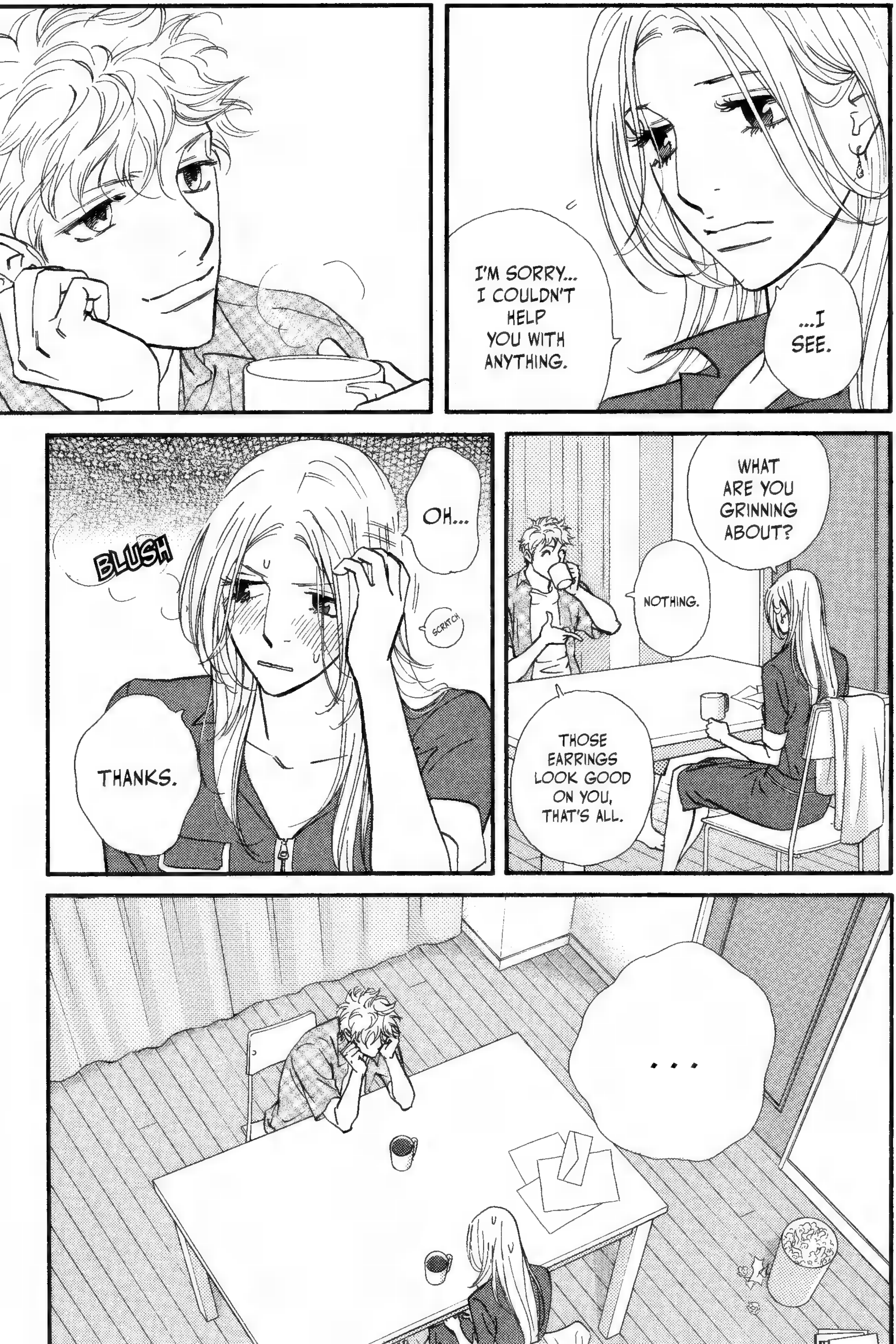
*A FREUDIAN SLIP. "IYAMI" MEANS "SARCASM."

...HUH?
IT'S BUSY...
BEEP
BUSY?!
BEEP
BEEP
WHAT'S THAT ABOUT?!
OKAY... REDIAL. REDIAL.
BEEP
R-I-I-N-G
AAH!
...SUMIRE-CHAN?
MOMO?!
I'M AT... RIGHT NOW, BUT...
WAS SO SURPRISED SHE DROPPED IT!


H-HELLO? I CAN'T HEAR YOU VERY WELL.
YEAH...HERE... RECEPTION...
FSSHHT
I'M GOING... HANG... OKAY?
WAIT! DON'T HANG UP!
THERE'S SOMETHING I HAVE TO SAY TO YOU!
OR, RATHER... I...
I WANT TO SEE YOU.
COME OVER RIGHT--
CLICK

...CLICK?
CLICK?!
TREMBLE
H-HOW COULD HE HANG--
SUMIRE-CHAN!
MO--

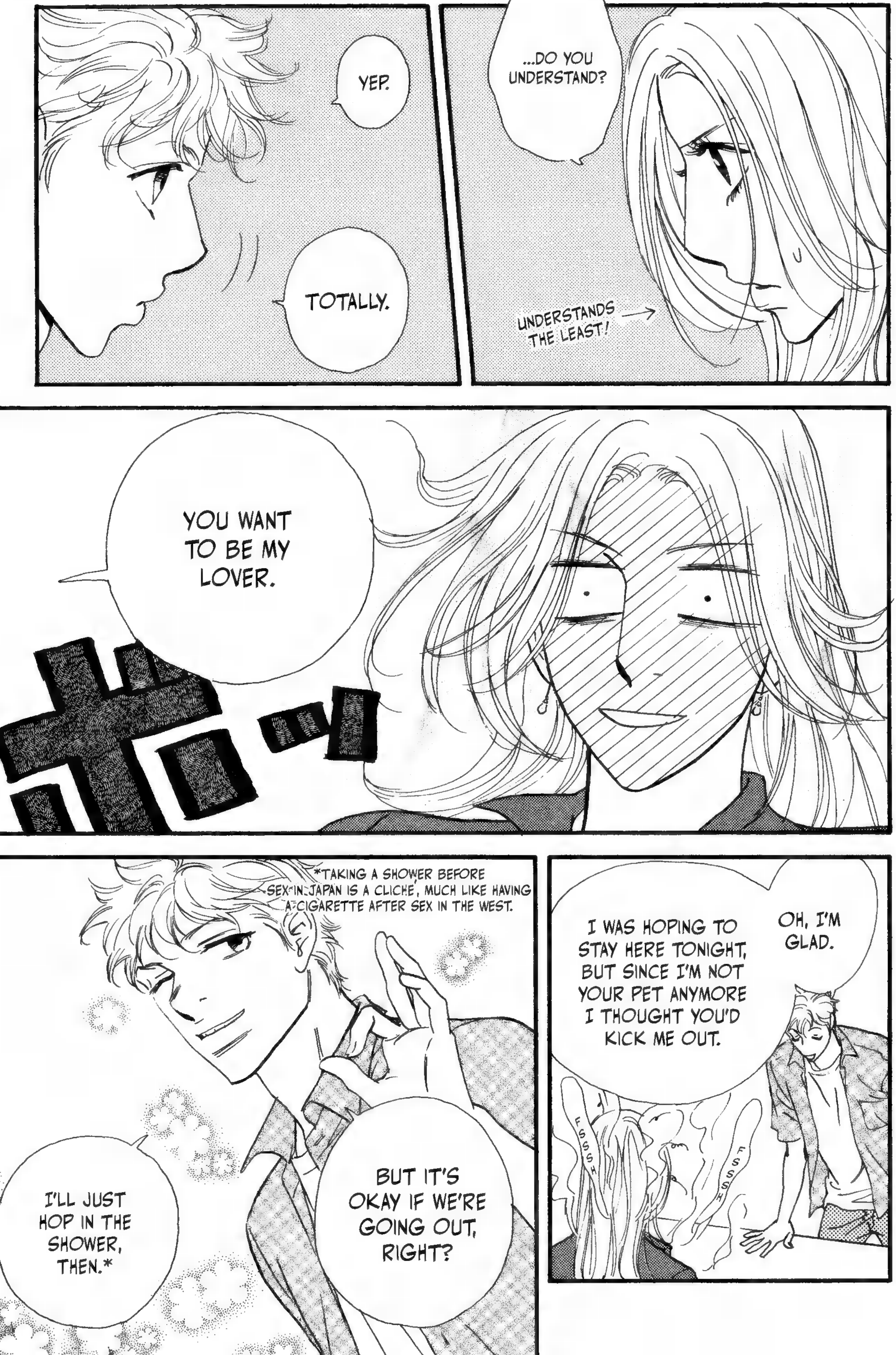
WARP SEQUENCE COMPLETED...
...MY CAPTAIN.
ARE YOU REALLY LEAVING TOMORROW?
YEP.
WILL YOU BE ALL RIGHT... YOU KNOW, FINANCIALLY?
OF COURSE.
I MEAN, THE TUITION AND STUFF PRETTY MUCH ATE ALL OF MY SAVINGS...
...BUT I'VE BEEN WORKING PART-TIME, AND MY PARENTS ARE GOING TO HELP.

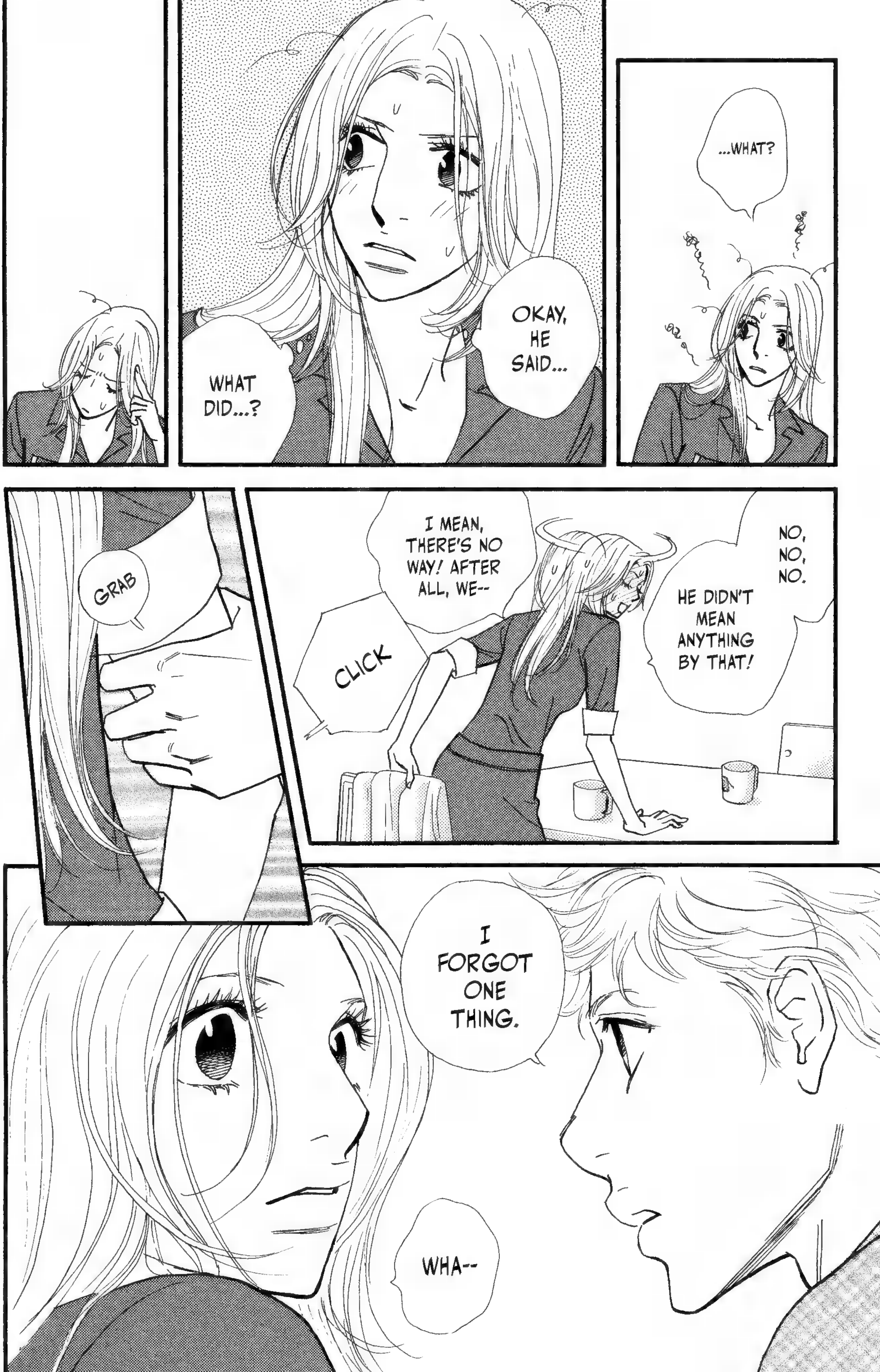

...I SEE.
I'M SORRY... I COULDN'T HELP YOU WITH ANYTHING.
WHAT ARE YOU GRINNING ABOUT?
NOTHING.
THOSE EARRINGS LOOK GOOD ON YOU, THAT'S ALL.
OH...
SCRATCH
BLUSH
THANKS.
...

SO THAT'S WHAT YOU WANTED TO SAY?
WHAT?!
OH...
UH...
W-WELL, FIRST OFF, I WANTED TO REPORT THAT...
...I MEAN, I THINK I SHOULD TELL YOU, AFTER ALL, THAT...
OH, BUT IT'S JUST A PROGRESS REPORT. IT'S NOT LIKE I WANT YOU TO DO SOMETHING BECAUSE OF IT OR...
DID YOU BREAK UP WITH HASUMI-KUN?
...SORRY. WAS THAT TOO PERSONAL?
IT'S JUST THAT I'VE NEVER SEEN THIS PLACE SO DIRTY.
...SO I THOUGHT MAYBE... HEY, WHAT'S WRONG?

*A PRO WRESTLER.

I...
I AM...
THAT IS...
HERE! NOW IT'S YOUR TURN, SUMIRE-CHAN.
WHA--?
UH...
...ALTHOUGH THAT MAY HAVE BEEN A HALLUCINATION ON ONLY MY PART. NONETHELESS...
IN SUMMATION, THAT WHICH SHOULD HAVE BEEN THE PRECURSOR TO THIS... HOW SHOULD I PHRASE IT? MOCK? TEMPORAL...? REGARDLESS AND MOREOVER, A FRAGILE RELATIONSHIP THAT WAS MOST CONSCIOUSLY...
AND OF COURSE, WHEN I SAY HALLUCINATION, I MEAN IT ONLY AS A FIGURE OF SPEECH, AND DO NOT WISH IT TO BE MISCONSTRUED. AT ANY RATE, OUR COMMON COGNIZANCE...*
...OR, RATHER, THIS CONSTRUCTION... MAY HAVE BEEN A DIRECT RESULT OF THAT HALLUCINATION...
* PLEASE READ THIS PANEL AGAIN WHEN YOU HAVE SOME SPARE TIME.
AND, UH, BY "OUR" I MEAN MOMO'S AND MINE, OF COURSE...
OUR RELATIONSHIP THUS FAR HAS BEEN...
HOW SHOULD I PUT THIS? I MAY HAVE REALIZED THIS SUBCONSCIOUSLY, THOUGH IN A SENSE IT WAS THERE ALL...
SO, UM...IN SUMMATION...
ONE HOUR LATER


...DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
UNDERSTANDS THE LEAST!
YEP.
TOTALLY.
YOU WANT TO BE MY LOVER.
OH, I'M GLAD.
I WAS HOPING TO STAY HERE TONIGHT, BUT SINCE I'M NOT YOUR PET ANYMORE I THOUGHT YOU'D KICK ME OUT.
FSSH
FSSSH
BUT IT'S OKAY IF WE'RE GOING OUT, RIGHT?
I'LL JUST HOP IN THE SHOWER, THEN.*
*TAKING A SHOWER BEFORE SEX IN JAPAN IS A CLICHE, MUCH LIKE HAVING A CIGARETTE AFTER SEX IN THE WEST.


WHAT DID...?
OKAY, HE SAID...
...WHAT?
GRAB
I MEAN, THERE'S NO WAY! AFTER ALL, WE--
CLICK
NO, NO, NO.
HE DIDN'T MEAN ANYTHING BY THAT!
I FORGOT ONE THING.
WHA--

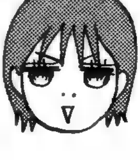
!
THE KISS I PROMISED YOU.
WE'LL CONTINUE THIS SOON, OKAY?
MMPH.
...
SIGH...

TO BE CONTINUED...

MA-CHAN GOES FOR IT!!

THREE'S A CROWD EDITION

MATSU'S REBUTTAL CORNER



LIKE IN VOLUME 11, THIS IS ALL PRETTY ACCURATE, SO I DON'T REALLY HAVE ANYTHING TO REBUT. THOUGH PERHAPS I SHOULD ADD THAT OGAWA-SAN'S KOTATSU IS CRAAAZY COMFORTABLE!

OGAWA AND MATSU'S COMPLETELY EXHAUSTED VOLUME COMMENTARY!

"INITIATION"

OGAWA: I LIKE THE SCENE WHERE MOMO TALKS WITH HIS FATHER. SPECIAL THANKS TO MY HUSBAND, WHO TOOK A REFERENCE PHOTO FOR ME (PARK ON THE HILL OVERLOOKING THE HARBOR). THANKS ALSO TO MY ASSISTANT, WHO FINISHED IT UP SO NICELY.

MATSU: THE CONVERSATION SCENE IS REALLY WONDERFUL, ISN'T IT? YOU CALL TELL WHICH WAY THE SUN'S SHINING. THAT'S VERY DIFFICULT TO DO IN A MANGA. THEN THERE IS THE SCENE WHERE MOMO CUTS HIS HAIR: "BYE BYE, MOMO!" OGAWA FIRST CAME UP WITH THE TITLE AT THE DRAFT STAGE. IT'S VERY MEMORABLE.

"YOUR SLAVE"

M: THE SUMIRE WHO APPEARS IN HASUMI-SAN'S DREAM IS TOO SCARY! I WOULDN'T EXPECT TO SEE ANYONE LIKE HER IN SHOJO MANGA. DURING THE MEETING ABOUT THE NAME FOR THIS CHAPTER, I REMEMBER THAT THERE WAS A DISAGREEMENT AS TO WHAT SHOULD HAPPEN IN THE LAST SCENE. WE CHOSE THIS VERSION SO THINGS COULDN'T BE CLEANED UP TOO EASILY.

MINOMANTA ↓

O: I SERIOUSLY THINK EVEN LISTENING TO HASUMI-KUN'S LINE IS EMBARRASSING. SUMIRE-CHAN IS A RARE WOMAN FOR BEING ABLE TO TAKE IT! THEN AGAIN, THE VISUALS FOR "MIMOMANTA" ARE PRETTY AMAZING...

"WHAT'S WITH HER?"

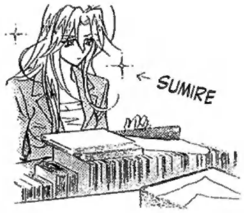
O: IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE WE'VE SEEN THAT ALIEN COME OUT OF MOMO'S BAG.
I DIDN'T REALLY THINK ABOUT IT MUCH AND JUST WROTE THE "EROTIC KISS" LINE, BUT I FOUND OUT THAT A LOT OF READERS WERE WAITING FOR IT TO COME BACK! THAT'S HOW THE LAST SCENE FROM RULE 70 WAS BORN. INTERACTIVE?

M: THE LOOK ON SUMIRE-CHAN'S FACE WHEN SHE SAYS, "THE CAT...FUKU-CHAN, YOU MEAN..." IS THE BEST! IT'S A MASTERPIECE. THIS WAS THE FIRST I'D HEARD OF THE "EROTIC KISS" EPISODE. SO THAT'S HOW IT WAS! THANK YOU SO MUCH, DEAR READERS!

"WAIT A MINUTE HERE"

"I'VE LOST INTEREST IN EVERY MAN ON EARTH"

O: I THOUGHT ABOUT ASKING SOMEONE ELSE TO DO THE ANIME ART PARTS, BUT IN THE END I DREW IT MYSELF. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 20 YEARS, I BOUGHT AN "ANIMAGE"* TO USE AS A REFERENCE. IT WAS REALLY FUN. GOOD JOB TO THE ASSISTANT WHO DID THE ANIME-LIKE TONES, TOO.



M: THIS IS EITHER MY FIRST OR SECOND FAVORITE SCENE FROM ALL OF "*YOU'RE MY PET*" IN TERMS OF THE CHANGES IN SUMIRE'S FEELINGS, THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT EPISODE, BUT TO MAKE IT WORK LIKE THIS IS VERY "*YOU'RE MY PET*" SUKENARI-KUN'S POPULARITY SKYROCKETED BECAUSE OF THIS EPISODE.

*AN ANIME MAGAZINE.

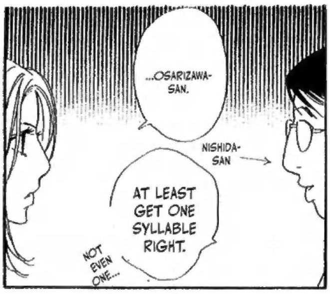
"LAST DANCE"

O: BECAUSE THE DEADLINE FOR THIS WAS AROUND THE END OF THE YEAR (PLUS IT WAS A FULL COLOR TITLE PAGE), I HAD TO DECIDE ON THE SUB-HEADING WITHOUT EVEN THE BEGINNING OF A DRAFT. THAT'S WHY IT'S DIFFERENT FROM THE ONE IN THE ACTUAL MAGAZINE. SORRY. THE MUSIC BOX SEEMS LIKE A CORE PIECE OF THIS EPISODE, BUT I ACTUALLY THOUGHT IT UP AND ADDED IT IN RIGHT BEFORE THE COMPLETION OF THE DRAFT.

M: HASUMI-SAN AND SUMIRE HAVE FINALLY BROKEN UP, HAVEN'T THEY? I'M SAD. I SERIOUSLY WAS GOING TO CRY WHEN I READ THE DRAFT AT DENNY'S. THE TITLE PAGE ART WAS IN FULL COLOR THIS TIME. IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL ILLUSTRATION DONE IN COLORED PENCIL. I'M SORRY WE CAN ONLY SHOW IT TO YOU IN GRAYSCALE.

"WAIT A MINUTE HERE"

O: NISHIDA-SAN FROM THE CULTURE DEPARTMENT ALWAYS SUBTLY PROVIDES SUMIRE-CHAN WITH SOME KIND OF IMPORTANT INFORMATION. HE'S A SURPRISINGLY IMPORTANT CHARACTER, BUT I THINK EVEN THE READERS DON'T REMEMBER HIS NAME. I DON'T THINK MOST PEOPLE WILL RECOGNIZE THE OVERPASS WHERE MOMO AND SUMIRE ARE REUNITED, BUT IT'S THE SAME ONE IN THE SCENE FROM RULE 16 WHERE THEY SEE THE RAINBOW.



M: THE MEETING FOR SUMIRE AND MOMO'S CONFESSION OF LOVE SCENE WAS WAY EMBARRASSING. IT WAS LIKE SEEING A LOVE SCENE WITH MY OWN CHILD IN IT. I'M SORRY TO LEAVE YOU WITH SUCH CLIFFHANGERS ALL THE TIME.

ALL AORI ASSOCIATION

ALSO KNOWN AS A.A.A.

AND NOW FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY...SIMILAR! THAT'S RIGHT, IN RESPONSE TO THEIR POPULARITY, WE WILL AGAIN SHARE WITH YOU THE AORI THAT ARE USUALLY ONLY FOUND IN *KISS MAGAZINE!!* BY THE WAY, AN AORI IS THE CATCH COPY ON THE FRONT PAGE OF MANGA THAT IS SERIALIZED IN A MAGAZINE. WE'VE PRINTED THESE TITLES WITH THE CORRESPONDING PAGE NUMBERS IN THIS BOOK, SO PLEASE ENJOY! FOR VOLUME 12, OGAWA-SAN'S ART WAS ESPECIALLY GLOWING!!

RULE 65: INITIATION [P. 5]

BACK THEN...
...I WANTED TO BE TALL.
TALLER THAN ANYONE ELSE...

RULE 66: YOUR SLAVE [P. 33]

LOVE ME...IF YOU DARE.
AND IF YOU DON'T DARE, TRY ANYWAY!

RULE 67: WHAT'S WITH HER? [P. 61]

FAREWELL, MOMO...

RULE 68: I'VE LOST INTEREST IN EVERY MAN ON EARTH [P. 93]

WAIT--WHO'S THIS?!

RULE 69: LAST DANCE [P. 122]

A GLIMPSE INTO THE FUTURE...

THEY'RE PRINTED LIKE THIS.

STAFF INTRODUCTION PAGE

QUESTIONNAIRE KEY

1. SIGN 2. BLOOD TYPE
3. FAVORITE *"YOU'RE MY PET"* CHARACTER
4. MOST MEMORABLE SCENE THEY DREW
5. WHY IT WAS MEMORABLE

TEIKA
KUKA

1.CANCER
2.TYPE O
3.HASUMI-KUN, PRIMARILY (THOUGH LATELY IT'S BEEN TEO FROM "FLYING," WHICH WILL APPEAR IN THE NEXT VOLUME).
4.VOLUME 10, RULE 54, FIRST PANEL--THE OCEAN TOWER HOTEL SUPER MILLENNIUM SUITE SHOOTING STAR PLAN ROOM!
IT WAS A LUDICROUS PLAN, BUT VERY FUN!

NAME:
O-TA

PEN NAME: JUN TOURA

1.CANCER
2.TYPE A
3.EDDIE-KUN
4.THE SCENERY IN THE FIRST PANEL OF VOLUME 8, RULE 41. BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT I DREW WHEN I FIRST BECAME OGAWA-SENSEI'S ASSISTANT (I'D NEVER BEEN AN ASSISTANT BEFORE! I WAS SCARED)!!

KAPPA MIKAN 4

1.TAURUS
2.TYPE A
3.FUKUSHIMA-SAN (AND ANAKO (HANAKO)-CHAN!)
4.VOLUME 10, PAGE 86, PANEL 4.
5.THAT WAS THE FIRST BACKGROUND I DREW AS AN ASSISTANT. I WAS SO NERVOUS...WELL, I STILL AM!

AYAKO KOYANO

1.LEO
2.TYPE O
3.SUMIRE-SAN
4.VOLUME 11, RULE 59, OPENING ILLUSTRATION.
5.I TOOK OVER THE ROUGH DRAFT OGAWA-SENSEI DREW... AND THEY SAID IT LOOKED LIKE SOMETHING WAS GOING TO COME OUT OF HER MOUTH. I WAS PRETTY NERVOUS.

***

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